development forum

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Volume 19—Number 3
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# Picking up the pieces

The United Nations shifts from development to emergency mode in the Gulf region. Overwhelming needs and incalculable risks challenge the international system.

[See page 1]

United Nations/John Isaac

***Allied military medics*** *attend to an injured child in southern Iraq shortly after Allied forces demolished the nation's infrastructure.*

**In this issue:**

The United Nations and the New World Order
By Brian Urquhart

Chronicle of an Argentine slum-dweller
By Geoffrey Fox

**Centrespread**
People vs. wildlife: Inevitable showdown?
By Maria Elena Hurtado

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Gulf Crisis

## Picking up the pieces

By Jim Wurst

United Nations/John Isaac

***Eric Suy, a Belgian*** *diplomat and chief of a United Nations mission to assess the refugee situation on Iraq's borders, interviews a group of Kurds in northern Iraq.*

Witnessing the "near apocalyptic" conditions in post-war Iraq, the international community has shifted its attention from waging war to the much slower process of rebuilding a country. The United Nations has been called on to participate in virtually all aspects of the emergency and recovery process in countries directly affected by the Gulf war, and has issued appeals for aid totalling nearly $600 million by the end of April. Still, the task of responding to the multiple calamities that have befallen Iraqis in particular has proved overwhelming.

The United Nations' growing responsibilities in the region are being co-ordinated by Sadruddin Aga Khan, whom the secretary-general appointed as executive director in charge of all humanitarian operations in the region. Those responsibilities now include providing food, shelter and medicine for victims of the war both inside and on the borders of Iraq, and control over camps the Western allies have set up inside Iraq for returning Kurds.

After leading a mission of experts to Iraq in March, under-secretary-general Martti Ahtisaari described a nation where "most means of modern life support have been destroyed or rendered tenuous. Iraq has, for some time to come, been relegated to a pre-industrial age, but with all the disabilities of post-industrial dependency on an intensive use of energy and technology." The United Nations report describes a country un-

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## This issue

As World Environment Day approaches for global observance on 5 June, the international community remains deeply concerned about the dangerous effects of the Gulf war on the human and natural environment. The United Nations system continues to monitor the situation and is working fast to get an internationally objective assessment of the damage—both current and potential—and of the most effective means to deal with the disaster.

New York-based journalist *Jim Wurst* examines the system-wide participation of the United Nations in the broad range of emergency and recovery efforts in the countries affected by the Gulf war. Environmental damage is no monopoly of the Gulf region alone. In our centrespread, *María Elena Hurtado*, a Chilean journalist residing in London, describes the efforts of policy makers to preserve natural parks and to save endangered wildlife species from extinction.

Retired under-secretary-general *Brian Urquhart* reviews the post-Gulf war situation and argues that a credible international mechanism must emerge for the collective security of all humanity. To take this role, he says, "the United Nations must be brought to maturity." The basic principles of that mechanism are already set out in the Charter and, as he implies, the mechanism for political co-ordination and consultation among governments needs to be far more effective and inclusive than any previous attempt.

We have received a number of encouraging letters in support of the format and editorial changes implemented with our previous issue. Our special thanks go to the subscribers who have doubled their $25 contributions towards the cost of our newspaper. These funds help subsidize those unable to pay from developing countries. We'll keep up our efforts.

As I see it

## Stronger United Nations only guarantee for security

By Brian Urquhart

As the ongoing Gulf crisis makes painfully clear, the world has entered a period of great international instability, characterized by long-standing rivalries and resentments, intense ethnic and religious turmoil and vast flows of arms and military technology. Development efforts in many countries have been derailed by warfare; its side effects leave no one untouched. Domestic disintegration, poverty and deep economic inequities, instantaneous communication throughout the world, population pressures, natural and ecological disasters, the scarcity of vital resources, and huge movements of population all add up to problems of such magnitude and complexity that our collective security remains in jeopardy for the foreseeable future.

*[This article is excerpted from an essay which originally appeared in the* New York Review of Books.*]*

In such a situation, no one nation, or even a partnership of two or three powerful nations, is going to be able to assume the role of world arbitrator and policeman, even if we suppose the other nations would

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South America

## Chronicle of a slum-dweller: From bats to bathrooms

By Geoffrey Fox

Buenos Aires—In the suffocating heat of a Saturday afternoon last March, some 30,000 neighbours, reporters, officials and curiosity seekers watched from rooftops and any other elevation as dynamite explosions began crumbling two massive concrete buildings, raising a cloud of orange dust that quickly enveloped the spectators and blotted out the sun.

The crowd was there for more than the fireworks. The *Albergue Warnes*, or "Warnes Street Shelter", a pair of gray buildings each 10 stories high and the length of two city blocks near La Chacarita Cemetery and closer still to a bustling market of auto parts of dubious origin, had become the city's most infamous high-rise slum. Its demolition signalled a new start for the more than 3,200 people who had been living there.

Only months earlier, Gladys Miño, a leader of the Warnes squatters, exclaimed to this reporter: "We just can't take it anymore!" To reach her apartment in the decaying Warnes complex, we had climbed stairs slippery from rain and garbage, skirted the gaping elevator shafts reeking of human wastes, and turned to grope along a dark, dank corridor until reaching the crude wooden door, following directions from people scurrying by in the shadows—mention of "la señora Gladys" seemed to grant us safe conduct.

Eduardo Longoni

***Gladys Miño*** *helped organize the resettlement of slum-dwellers.*

Gladys Miño, a small, dark-haired woman not quite 30, was surprised to see us, but welcomed us into her small, three-room apartment, crowded with bits of cast-off furniture and people coming and going. Miño related some of the history of the building, where she had lived with her husband and three children since 1987.

The Warnes shelter, built in 1952 by the Eva Perón Foundation, never served as the hospice for unwed mothers as originally intended. Rather, between periods of abandonment and a time as a clandestine mili-

*Continued on page 10*

## *Making foreign aid work*

Dear Editor,

Apropos Barry Herman's views on Graham Hancock's book *Lords of Poverty* ("Making Foreign Aid Work" *DF* January-February), I would like to comment on Hancock's sweeping view that it would be better that the United Nations, IMF, World Bank, government donor agencies and private voluntary agencies close shop, and let poor nations fend for themselves.

I worked as an administrator in a voluntary agency which was funded by international Christian outfits, and it did a commendable job. It brought hope to, and changed the lives to some extent, of down-and-outs in our society.

Of course there were problems: the itinerant experts insulating themselves in five-star-hotel comforts, or the lack of commitment and motivation in some of the caste-bound village elders. And financial constraints meant our resources were too thinly spread to have a radical impact on the stubborn problems of poverty.

I witnessed many food-for-work programmes, mother and child feeding programmes, digging of bunds, approach roads, percolation tanks, wells and community health programmes. All brought about desirable if marginal improvement in living standards.

Yet, when those snapshots come before my eyes as flashbacks, I cannot blank out the faces of expectant mothers and children looking forward to the continuation of these programmes. I am convinced that the foreign aid shop need not close, but could be streamlined, and the structures and institutions which are connected with it could be revamped.

*John Alexander*,
Red Building, Tailors Lane, Chawni, Nagpur: 440013 (M.S.), India.

## *Economic Security Council?*

Dear Editor,

Mahbub ul Haq's article on "Focus on people and security—precondition for development" in the January-February issue of *Development Forum* is a splendid formulation of the key items in a concrete development strategy for the 1990s. It deserves wide circulation.

I would suggest, however, that a seventh key item for action in the 1990s should be added to the six he mentions, i.e., the solution of the debt problem.

Without the removal of the debt overhang it is not easy to see how his other priorities could move us definitively out of the lost decade of the 1980s.

I would especially like to address his sixth action point—the restructuring of the United Nations. It is clear that his proposal for an Economic Security Council as a counterpart to the present Security Council will not be easy to achieve.

This idea was part of the original vision of the Bretton Woods system which was supposed to rest on four pillars: the IMF, World Bank, International Trade Organisation (with a function of stabilizing commodity prices) and effective overall economic co-ordination by the United Nations (backed by a Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED)). Only two of these pillars have been erected and the system collapsed in 1971.

The Western countries—and in their wake the managers of the IMF and World Bank—show no inclination to give a major economic role to the United Nations. If the Western industrial countries are given a veto right in the Economic Security Council, it may lose credibility among the developing countries as an instrument of overall co-ordination. May we look to Mahbub ul Haq to tell us how to resolve this dilemma?

*H.W. Singer*,
emeritus professor, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RE, United Kingdom.

*Mahbub ul Haq responds:*

I would certainly agree with Prof. Singer that a solution of the debt problem is vital in the 1990s. In fact, I had already proposed that a Debt Refinancing Facility be set up under the joint auspices of the IMF-World Bank to provide a satisfactory, institutional mechanism for settling the debt issue since the present piecemeal, case-by-case approach is not leading anywhere.

Regarding the Economic Security Council proposal, there may be several ways to create a smaller decision-making forum without compromising the interests of either developing or industrial countries.

For instance, we can adopt the principle of weighted representation but without weighted voting in the constitution of the Economic Security Council.

The basic point is that the industrial countries are reassured that they can begin to use the United Nations system for important economic decisions without the fear that their voice will be drowned in large, unweighted fora.

It is encouraging to see that Prof. Singer, certainly one of the foremost authorities on development in our times, takes such interest in *Development Forum*, a valuable tool for development professionals around the world.

*Mahbub ul Haq*,
special adviser to the administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, DC1 Bldg., New York, NY 10017, United States.

## *Call for papers: animal production*

Dear Editor,

I would like to publish a call for papers in order to reach the diverse, large audience which receives *Development Forum*. As a graduate student at Iowa State University studying international development and animal science, I have begun working on a literature search on indigenous knowledge systems relating to domesticated animal production later to be published as an annotated bibliography with the Center for Indigenous Knowledge and Rural Development (CIKARD).

I am particularly interested in traditional systems of animal husbandry or management for livestock such as cattle, camels, buffalo, sheep, goats, as well as others. This would include information such as criteria for making breeding decisions, types of feeding systems, as well as criteria for eliminating animals from the herd. Because animal production does tend to be such a dynamic system, information ranging from health practices to sociological and economic factors is also welcomed.

In addition, if you can refer me to anyone who could be of further assistance, your help would be greatly appreciated.

*Tracy Slaybaugh*,
CIKARD, 318 Curtiss Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011, United States.

## *New* DF *format appealing*

Dear Editor,

I have received the March-April edition of *Development Forum* reflecting the new design and editorial changes and find the new format very appealing. I am sure it will be enthusiastically received by readers. I feel certain that the new edition has opened up a new chapter in the publication's history.

*Herbert Honsowitz*,
director, United Nations Information Service, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria.

## *Road to Rio: A crossroads for civilization*

Dear Editor,

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil (see "On the road to Rio 1992" by Maurice Strong, March-April), promises to be a turning point in the annals of environment-development awareness, action and advocacy *vis-à-vis* problems, prescriptions, priorities, policies and programmes.

The Earth Summit also provides a potential platform for citizens' groups to pressure governments and other decision-makers to translate from rhetoric to action the universal message of environment-development rights and responsibilities.

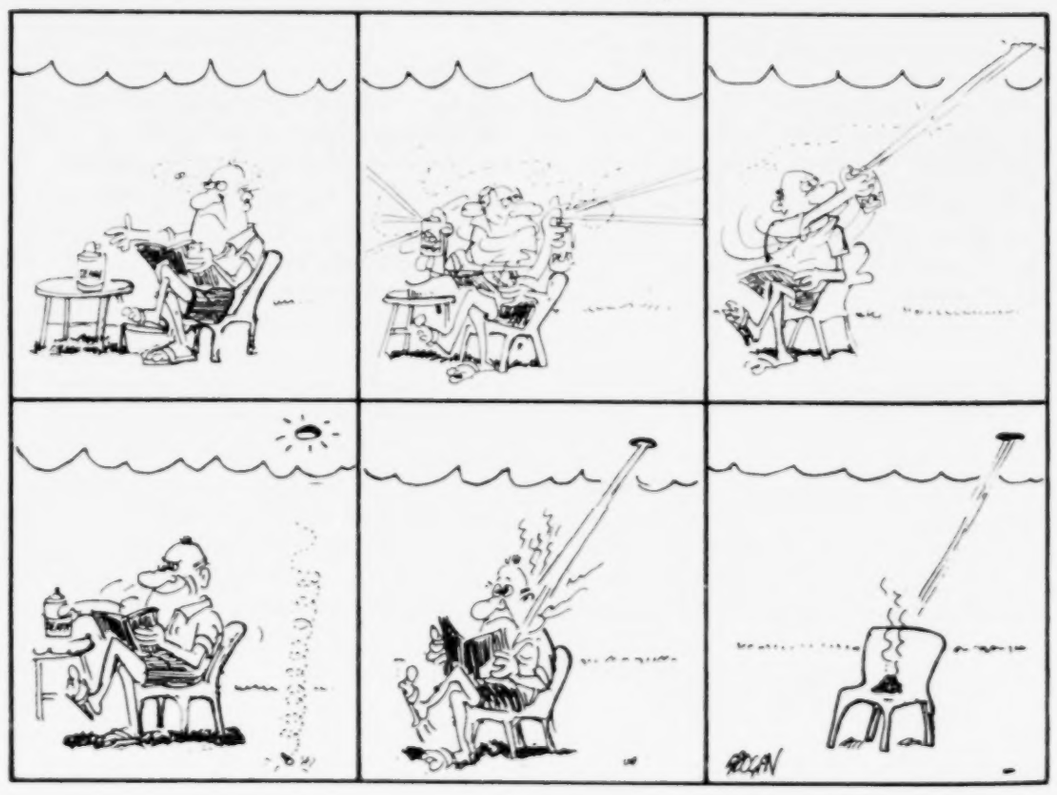
The conference has undeniably sparked a renewed interest in environment-development issues that goes well beyond the established environment-development constituency, embracing people from sectors of society.

However, it is not enough for Brazil 1992 to advocate for environmentally sound and sustainable development from the perspective of intergenerational equity" alone. It is as important to address the critical dilemma of "intragenerational equity" (viz. the North/South divide, the North in the South, and the South in the North). Only then can we even begin a meaningful dialogue on strategies to secure "our common future".

Brazil 1992 certainly provides a unique opportunity for citizens' groups from the North and South to echo the "voices of the people". Citizens' groups should not be intimidated or numbed into inaction by the magnitude of the environment-development challenges to be considered in Brazil as, in the ultimate analysis, it is the cumulative effect of individual or collective action on their part that may well determine and seal our common fate and destiny.

We are at a crossroads in the history of human civilization. Only time will tell if we—as a species, as fellow travellers on spaceship Earth—were wise enough to take the right turn at the crossroads.

*Martin Abraham*,
head of information and research of the International Organization of Consumers Unions, P.O. Box 1045, 10830 Penang, Malaysia.



# Empowering women: Development's missing link

By Idriss Jazairy

Of all the reasons—and there are many—that development efforts in many countries have faltered over the past decade, I am increasingly convinced that the neglect of poor, rural women is one of the foremost factors. Without serious policy measures designed to unleash this powerful but underutilized force for development, it is likely that progress will remain painfully slow and inadequate in the years to come.

For this reason it is crucial that the development community be bolder in empowering more women. Alleviating poverty and reducing the harshness of the lives of the poorest rural women must be the point of departure in the design and finance of projects that directly assist poor rural women and, indeed, households to become more productive, more self-reliant, more effectively involved in the development process.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development's (IFAD) *World Poverty Study* demonstrates the disproportionate number of women among the world's poorest rural people. They are also among the most vulnerable. Many are landless; many others, even those who are heads of households, have no legal tenure to the land they farm. In many regions, development programmes have ignored or neglected them, or have even inadvertently increased their burdens. Extension services and credit often never reach them.

Those who have recognized these insidious trends have sought to sharpen the focus of development programmes and improve methodologies for project design to assist the most vulnerable rural women.

Our policy is not to address the issues of women in development in general or simply in social terms, but specifically to promote the economic empowerment of poor rural women.

We are faced with policy and project misconceptions about poor rural women. All too often, projects ostensibly intended to reach them fail to do so, because women-oriented components in projects are added almost as an afterthought or quite often as a mere appendix to the project. Even with the best intentions, sometimes such failures can have a significant negative impact on women.

I can think of very few countries that can cite figures of development and financial assistance to women which was effectively targetted to the most needy ones in the countryside.

Still, we must ask these questions: Have women's direct benefits from international assistance been measured? And, more specifically, have rural women known about this assistance and have they benefitted equitably in training opportunities? What percentage of the credit from agricultural loans has gone to low-income rural women? How many of the fellowships provided by international donors have been granted to them?

Poor rural women are not thought to be creditworthy. IFAD's experience indicates the opposite. Many of the Fund's credit schemes run by women boast repayment rates up to 94 per cent. Poor women farmers are in the best managerial position to know how to save or spend additional funds, even if they are small amounts. IFAD's studies in Ghana and Ethiopia have shown that a loan of $50 has the potential to free a family from poverty, thanks to poor rural women's careful management.

I would like to suggest here strategies that help ensure that the poorest of these rural women—the female-headed households, be they smallholders or landless, migrants, refugees or returnees—are reached.

For one, there can be no advancement for poor rural women unless their labour is justly rewarded. In practice, this means that the work rural women put into the total food cycle, from tilling to table, must receive an economic value. Its value must be calculated and included in project models that reflect crop and household work by all members of the household.

Assistance programmers must survey the conditions, obtain essential socio-economic data and talk to government planners and to the people themselves, women as well as men, in an effort to identify specific needs and to recommend specific activities to address these needs. The Fund does everything it can to encourage poor rural women to speak out about their particular concerns and to make suggestions about ways the project could help make their work more productive and their lives more dignified.

*Projects ostensibly intended to reach them fail to do so, because women-oriented components in projects are added almost as an afterthought.*

Our project design teams increasingly include women from the project country. We also try to identify those customs and practices that may hinder or enhance productivity—such things, for example, that become inefficient with overpopulation on the one hand, shifting cultivation or traditional village self-help associations on the other.

One of the important steps that has special relevance for women is to devise ways to disaggregate data so that we can get a more accurate picture not simply of crop or livestock production, but also of processing and use, areas where women often have the prime responsibility. This will allow us to assess women's work at all stages, especially post-harvest stages, and thus to design projects that support women's activities. And, not incidentally, to convince governments that targetting poor rural women in development programmes makes economic sense.

Continued on page 20

*This* Voices for Development *features Idriss Jazairy, president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and Colleen Lowe Morna, a Zimbabwean journalist who writes about African affairs. Jazairy cites the role of development agencies in the empowerment of rural women. Lowe Morna describes the broader framework that must be in place to bring about lasting change for marginal women.*

# Women must seek rights at all levels

By Colleen Lowe Morna

Windhoek—Idriss Jazairy's call to incorporate effective policies for poor women in development programmes is certainly laudable and necessary. But one does not have to spend much time here to see how crucial an overall revamping of the legal and constitutional system is if the programmes at the grassroots level, where all the poorest women are, have the slightest chance of having a lasting impact.

What is extraordinary about Namibia, which became a nation only last year, is the opportunity it offers to women to participate in the actual building of the nation's institutional, constitutional and legal frameworks to ensure that the overall structure gives women a fair shake from the outset of nationhood. The problem, of course, is summoning the human resources in the enormous fight for women's rights.

As progress is assessed since Namibian independence one year ago, women have cause for celebration and soul-searching. Shaking off *apartheid's* paternalism has yielded successful, albeit slow, advances on behalf of Namibia's women.

Together with the dismantling of *apartheid*, the key change is the new democratic constitution, hailed as one of the most enlightened in the world, which outlaws sexual and racial discrimination as well as provides a bill of rights, multiparty parliamentary elections and an independent judiciary. The constitution also provides for affirmative action to redress the historical disadvantages faced by women.

"Of course, we all thought that from one minute past midnight last year on the 21st [of March], we would have equal rights. But that did not happen," says Tilly Abrahams, veteran politician of the Namibia National Front, a progressive opposition party. However, Maria Kapena, director of the women's department that was recently set up in the Namibian president's office, says "when you move around now, you begin to feel the change."

Ndeufi Namalamba, secretary of the National Teachers' Union, adds: "The very fact that we got our independence has sent home the message that things can't stay the same. But Namibian women are still struggling to find the confidence to make the most of the changes."

**When Namibian women** lined up to vote for the first time last year, they took one step in the integration of women into the newly created nation.

United Nations

## South African occupation

Under South African rule since 1915, Namibia's 5 per cent white population controlled 60 per cent of the land, forcing black men to go to the towns in search of work. As a result, 60-70 per cent of Namibian households were headed by women.

Small-scale farmers received little support under the former government. Racial discrimination and lower levels of education helped to relegate black women who ventured into towns for employment to domestic service in white households.

In addition, there was legalized gender discrimination. Under the Roman Dutch legal system inherited from South Africa, a woman could not sign a contract without a man's consent. Most black women were governed by customary law which recognizes the man as head of the household, endorses the system of dowry and apportions inheritance to the man's family rather than to his wife.

## Labour law

Women have fought hard to change these practices. For instance, a draft labour code, to become law in the

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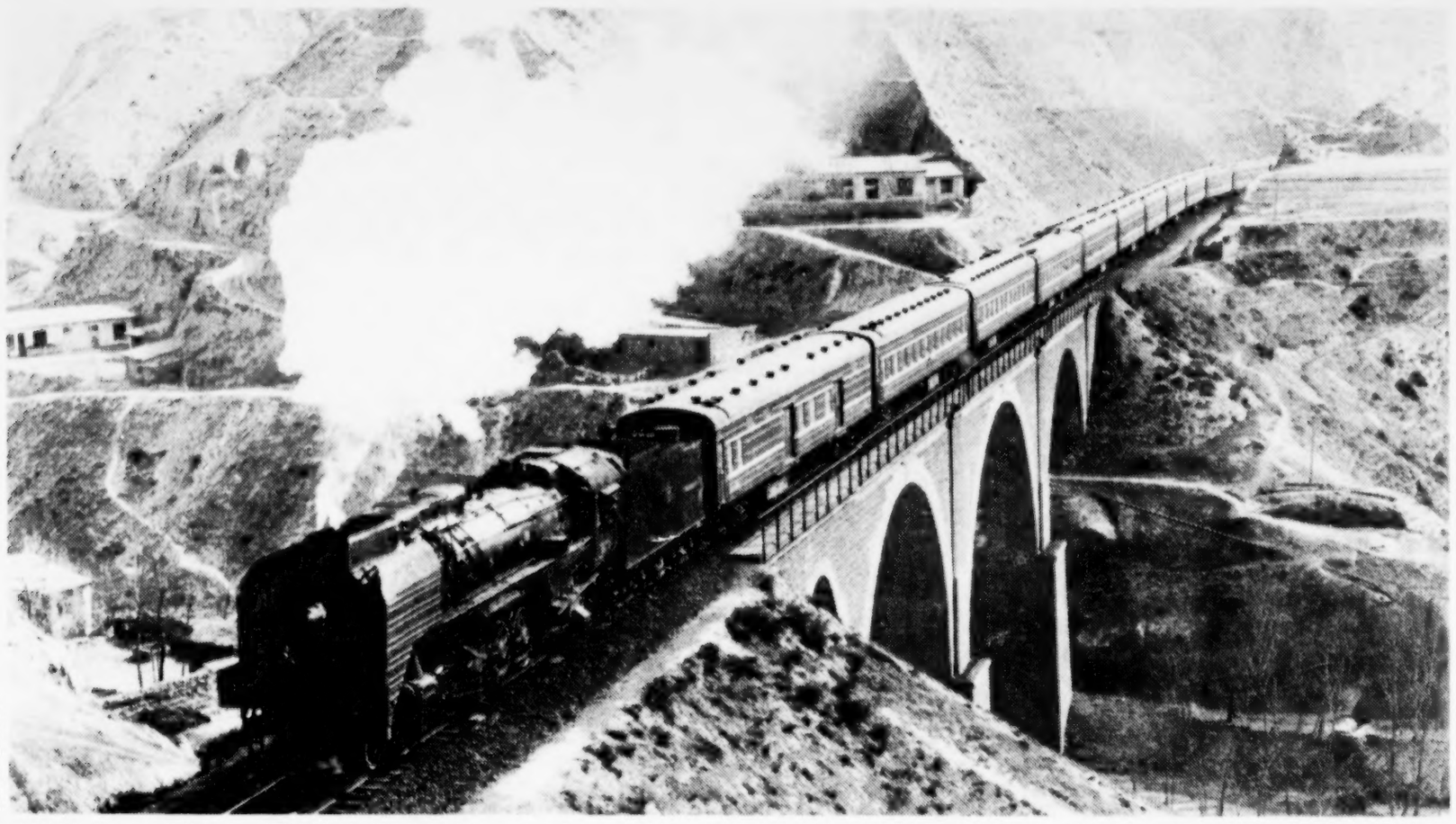
READEX FICHE

# Running out of steam? Try Manchuria



William E Bolton

***Although steam locomotives** are still in use in parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America, few trains are available for passengers, and fewer still for tourists.*

## By Stuart Arnold

All over the world people still have huge affection for the steam locomotive. Yet, in the last decades of the twentieth century, the number of countries where steam-driven railways still operate has rapidly diminished.

The People's Republic of China is one of the last bastions of steam power, and the tourist authorities have decided to take full advantage of their old-fashioned system by promoting their railways for overseas visitors.

The central government in Beijing has decreed that Heilongjiang will be the last province to give up the day-to-day running of steam locomotives, and that Jiamusi, 500 kilometres from Harbin, the provincial capital, will be the last "steam" city, probably until around the year 2000.

Steam locomotives can be seen in several regions, and many people still make the pilgrimage of almost 400 kilometres from Beijing to Datong, where steam locomotives were built up to the end of 1988.

However, tourism authorities are highlighting the three provinces in the north-east, Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang, once known collectively as Manchuria, for steam enthusiasts.

Shenyang, the capital of Liaoning province and an industrial city of 5.5 million people, is a good place to begin a steam railway tour.

First stop is the National Railway Museum, where one can view 14 locomotives ranging from a 1934 streamlined Japanese passenger locomotive to a Romanian tank engine. The oldest on show was built in the United States, in 1907. Other countries represented include Czechoslovakia, Germany, Poland and the Soviet Union.

Next door is the motor power depot. Here, one can view and photograph up to 50 steam locomotives together with a few modern diesels. Coal bunkering and watering facilities, a turntable, sheds and repair and paint shops are close by.

*The Chinese accentuate the positive side of their obsolete steam technology.*

Train No. 207 leaves Shenyang for Harbin, the capital of Heilongjiang province, at 7.32 a.m. each day, arriving at 6.43 p.m. Known as the "Paris of the East" in the 1920s, Harbin boasted a raunchy nightlife. It is now infinitely more respectable.

Two other "steam" towns are Langxiang, a major timber and saw mill centre, where narrow gauge rail lines come out of the forest and connect with the main line, and Nancha.

A special extra to travelling by steam is that the Chinese railways offer a great way to meet the local people. The long journeys are particularly conducive to getting to know one's fellow travellers. Foreigners are generally given a "soft" bed compartment with four bunks and plenty of storage space. Green tea comes at regular intervals, and a rather more eccentric trolley service offers regional dishes at knock-down prices. Inexpensive meals served in the restaurant car—complete with beer or the local firewater, *maitai*—also require a strong spirit of adventure. ■

GEMINI

*Stuart Arnold is a freelance writer and consultant who travels widely.*

Philippines

# Seaweed outweighs fish as new crop

## By Isagani de Castro

Manila—The Philippine government, with the help of international aid agencies, hopes to promote seaweed farming as an alternative source of income for the country's several million small fishermen. According to experts, the island nation's more than 10,000 miles of coastline provide nearly ideal conditions for seaweed farming.

A recent study of a fishing community that ventured into seaweed farming in Bohol, central Philippines, concluded that the development of this alternative income source offers the best hope for raising incomes in fishing communities.

Experts say fishermen can earn a net income of $1,500 yearly for every hectare of seaweed farmed. Small fishermen earn about $1,000 a year from traditional fishing activities.

But with population growth, marine pollution and the proliferation of illegal fishing methods, the average Filipino fish catch since 1984 has been, at best, steady.

The Bohol study by the International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) covered 340 households in the traditional fishing community of Hingotonan Island in Bohol.

Ten years after the community turned to the cultivation of seaweeds, the fishermen were able to pay off previous debts, build farmhouses, buy *bancas* (dug-outs), modern appliances and send their children to school, according to ICLARM. Daily incomes of Hingotonan households rose from $2.70 to a range of $5.40 to $17.50.

About half a million fishermen in the central and southern Philippines—which accounts for 97 per cent of total seaweed production in the country—are already engaged in seaweed production.

The Philippines already ranks fourth among the world's producers of red seaweed, exporting some $48 million worth of dried seaweed and carageenan— a seaweed derivative used as a binding agent in food products—in 1990.

But the benefits from seaweed farming have not been distributed equitably, according to Ethel Llana, seaweeds section chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

Llana says farm operators and traders benefit more than small seaweed farmers who are forced to sell to middlemen at disadvantageous prices. Lack of transportation facilities prevent these farmers from going directly to buyers.

UNDP Joseph F Viesti

***Filipino fishermen,** like traditional fishermen around the world, are catching fewer fish because of widespread overfishing and pollution.*

The ICLARM study suggests that cooperative or community management of the activity would distribute the benefits more equitably. With financial assistance, cooperatives can set up their own processing facility, the study said.

The department of agriculture would like to increase the number of fishermen involved in seaweed farming to one million by 1992. It intends to put up seaweed seed centres in some parts of the Visayas and Mindanao in the central and southern Philippines.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has approved a $732,000 project to promote seaweed farming in Sorsogon province in the Bicol region in southern Luzon.

The seaweed development project, to be managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and BFAR, will assist 800 low-income families in five coastal towns of Sorsogon. It will also set up a processing facility for carageenan near the five towns.

UNDP aims to boost seaweed production by diversifying the species which are cultivated and improving post-harvest processing techniques. It is also helping to promote the use of seagrasses as a source of fodder and fertilizers. Seagrass provides an important habitat for fish. ■

IPS

# Micro-hydros: Nepal sees the light

By Prakash Khanal

Kathmandu—Rural life around this mountainous country is a little brighter because of dozens of micro-hydroelectric plants providing remote areas with energy. Locally-made water turbines power grain-milling and oilseed-pressing with electricity during the day, and brighten nights with electric light when the milling is done.

Hydro-power is not new here; electricity is. For centuries, people living in the hills and the Himalayas have harnessed the power of Nepal's 6,000 rivers and waterways to drive *paani ghattas*, traditional wooden water mills, to grind corn. Some 25,000 *paani ghattas* are still in use. The new technology builds on this tradition and is so successful that advocates see it as an inexpensive answer to rural energy shortages elsewhere as well.

The Agriculture Development Bank of Nepal (ADB/N) provides much of the financing for the 70 micro-hydro plants, while feasibility studies are undertaken by independent consultants. Domestic and foreign producers make and help install the turbines.

Says development consultant Deepak Gyawali: "The reason for the relative success of the ADB scheme is that the bank only plays the role of promoter rather than as entire delivery agent."

The 70 plants, with capacities ranging from one to 40 kw, have been set up in 58 districts throughout the country. Fifty projects are individually owned and the rest are owned by small farmers' groups. They produce around 700 kw of electricity.

*Micro-hydro turbines produce electricity at up to one-fifth of the cost of the government's vast hydroelectric projects.*

Kiran Man Singh, chief of the Appropriate Technology Division of the ADB/N, says about 3,000 households have benefitted from the rural electrification projects. More plants are in the pipeline. The bank says 18 projects will be completed this year. Many more are planned and the demand for loans to set up plants is increasing.

In the daytime the plants can be used for grain-milling and rice-hulling and are proving to be much more efficient than mechanical mills for extracting mustard oil, widely used in everyday cooking. For lighting at night, electricity substitutes expensive, imported kerosene.

Micro-hydro electricity also aims to improve the capacity of communities to work small industries, such as apple-farming and carpet-making.

Light at night is completely changing the lifestyles of villagers, who now can be active until 10 p.m. instead of going to bed at 7:00. On the road to Pokara, 200 kms (125 miles) west of Kathmandu, when night falls, tea stalls are awash with light from fluorescent lamps.

Almost 13 million rupees ($433,000) have been spent on building the projects.

"The production cost depends on location and power need. On the average, it may cost between 20,000 rupees ($660) and 60,000 rupees ($2,000) per kilowatt of electricity generated," says Bikas Raj Panday, micro-hydro consultant for the London-based Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG).

ITDG is now finalizing a three-year agreement with ADB to provide technical assistance for the projects. It has trained local experts to make low-cost generators, which are being produced both by ITDG in Britain and Akkal Man Nakarmi in Nepal.

ITDG is also providing technical input to local manufacturers of water turbines, multipurpose power units and power-saving electric utensils, such as low wattage electric cookers, for rural use.

The electric cookers represent a key objective in the stepped-up building of hydroelectric projects big and small: finding an alternative to firewood to relieve the serious deforestation problem in Nepal. Research is aimed at developing cookers and water heaters that are portable and inexpensive enough to provide energy for poor villagers.

There are problems. Bulbs and other electrical appliances break down because of lack of controllers to regulate voltage. Electronic load controlling devices are available but although assembled locally, they are produced in Britain and increase the unit cost.

Nevertheless, micro-hydro turbines produce electricity at up to one-fifth of the cost of the government's vast hydroelectric projects and can reach remote areas where bigger projects cannot. And with training, the technology is within the grasp of rural people.

Says Gyawali: "Instead of keeping all development eggs in one basket, it would make sense for the government to invest in smaller projects which have proven beneficial to the communities of rural Nepal."

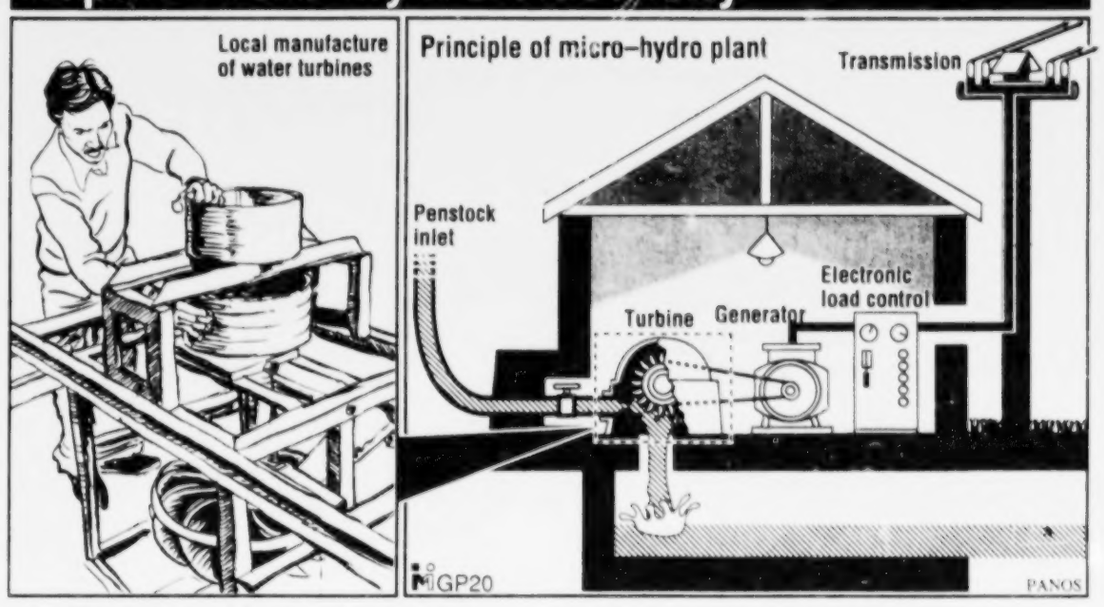
The micro-hydro generators still provide only a tiny fraction of Nepal's overall hydroelectric needs. There are large schemes, including the ARUN III being designed with World Bank financing, and the Kali Gandaki project being built with assistance from the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the United Nations Development Programme.

When it comes on line in 1996, Kali Gandaki will have a capacity of 90,000 kw, compared to the 700 kw of present micro-hydro capacity. As well, there are mini-hydropower stations which generate between 1,000-10,000 kw. ■

PANOS

*Prakash Khanal is a Nepali journalist writing on the environment.*

## Nepal: micro–hydro electricity




***The Nepalese government*** *has turned to hydroelectric power in part to slow deforestation and expensive fuel exports.*

India

# Four-legged electric generator

By Prakash Chandra

New Delhi—Bullock power could be the next wave in Indian energy technology as the uncertainties in the world oil market strengthen India's resolve to develop alternatives to imported oil.

As part of this effort, scientists at the National Institute for Training in Industrial Engineering (NITIE), in Bombay, have invented a simple device that uses work animals to generate electricity. "It is not such a laughable idea as you might think," says NITIE director S. Ramani. Prototypes are already producing electricity in a few rural villages and at the family farm of former prime minister Chandra Shekhar, outside New Delhi.

The mechanism is simple to handle and is almost maintenance-free. No new technological breakthroughs were involved in the device's invention.

The animals are harnessed and made to walk in circles. Their movements power a series of small gears that increase the animals' two or three rotations per minute to 2,500 rpm's. These rpm's turn an alternator, like that in a car, which produces direct-current electricity.

With this device, two bullocks produce a flow of about one horsepower, or 746 watts, of electricity. Its portability allows it to be moved to where it is needed. Bullocks, or steers, are India's most numerous work animal, but donkeys, horses, mules and camels can also be used.

India's estimated 80 million farm animals are now used an average of only 100 days per year at their age-old tasks of pulling carts and ploughs and carrying water cans.

The rest of the time, they are idle. Because idle animals do not help pay the bills, they tend to get fed less by the impoverished farmers who keep them, causing a decline in the animals' health and productive life.

United Nations

***Draught animals are*** *now being used to power small generators in their spare time.*

The NITIE device would improve matters by giving the animals more income-earning work. "Our main aim is to make the maximum use of animals that are otherwise neglected by farmers when they are not in use," says Ramani.

The cost of making one such device is currently 7,000 rupees, or $370. Mass production would bring that cost down to 4,000 rupees, which could be lent to farmers and paid back over time in saved electricity costs. ■

South-North News Service

*Prakash Chandra is the New Delhi bureau chief of* Depth News Asia.

# Safer sprayers reduce pesticide risks

By Jennifer Pepall

A Malaysian farmer complains of dizziness and nausea, correctly suspecting the pesticides he applies to his rice fields. What he does not consider, however, is that substandard equipment may also be the problem.

High rates of pesticide poisoning among farmers in South-East Asia have spurred the development of a safe yet inexpensive knapsack sprayer equipment. The research is revealing.

About $120 million of pesticides are sold annually in Malaysia, where they are used by both small-scale farmers and spray gangs on plantation estates. The pesticides are commonly applied with hand-held knapsack sprayers. More than 96 per cent of the sprayers are locally manufactured and their quality ranges from poor to moderately good.

As farmers choose affordability over quality, many use inferior sprayers that increase their chances of being contaminated by pesticides.

"Popularity depends on price," says Mohammed Jusoh Mamat, the senior research officer at the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) in Kuala Lumpur.

Mamat heads a project funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada that is developing a safer and more efficient knapsack sprayer—one that can be made locally and sold to farmers in South-East Asia at a reasonable price. Project researchers have reviewed the sprayers currently on the market and identified flaws that contribute to pesticide poisoning. They have also asked farmers to suggest sprayer improvements.

IDRC

Malaysia has no minimum standards for sprayers, leaving manufacturers free to sell inferior products. Project researchers have consequently found many defects in the sprayers, which expose operators to a variety of health risks.

Narrow knapsack straps, for example, are made of coarse material that sinks into farmers' muscles and bruises skin. If the straps break, the farmer often replaces them with cloth—a material that can absorb leaking pesticides. Sharp edges on tanks also pose health risks. They cause wounds that can get contaminated by pesticides. The tanks, all made of brass, are too heavy and easily cause operators working in muddy fields to fall and spill chemicals. Other hazardous features include small tank ports, leaking components, misaligned pumps and air chambers, inadequate strainers and short lances. In addition to using defective sprayers, farmers frequently do not take proper precautions when handling pesticides.

Researchers tell of farmers mixing chemicals with bare hands and blowing out clogged sprayer nozzles with their mouths.

Farmers rarely wear safety attire because the heavy garments are uncomfortable in the extreme heat. This becomes particularly serious when coupled with poor spraying techniques, such as spraying forward and walking into a mist of pesticide droplets.

The most common symptoms of pesticide poisoning among Malaysian farmers are dizziness and nausea, along with headaches and rashes, says Mamat. More acute reactions include cankers, blisters, skin ulcers and disfigured hand and toe nails. Farmers who have been severely affected suffer from bronchitis and cancer.

By developing a better sprayer that is also affordable, Mamat hopes to reduce the dangers faced by farmers who rely on pesticides. His team has drafted a preliminary design for a sprayer that incorporates standards outlined by the World Health Organization (WHO) and modifications suggested by farmers with the best elements of high-quality imported sprayers. The new model will have features such as a plastic tank and a longer lance.

Once a prototype is made, it will be field-tested in Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. After further refinements, a second prototype will be tested and the final blueprints will be made to local manufacturers' specifications.

Mamat's plans, however, go beyond blueprints. "Having a good sprayer doesn't mean that it will be used properly," he says. He wants to establish spraying clinics for farmers, increase the wearing of safety attire, and encourage the adoption of minimum standards for the manufacture of sprayers. ■

IDRC Reports

For more information, write to Mohammed Jusoh Mamat, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), P.O. Box 12301, Serdang, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

*Jennifer Pepall is a freelance writer based in Ottawa, Canada.*

# Sweet and sour pork, Cuban style

Cuban pig farmers have been experimenting with innovative ways to use the island's premiere crop—sugar cane—to boost pork production. Usually pigs are fed on expensive cereals and protein feeds, many of which are imported and could be better used as human food.

It was in the mid-sixties that the Cuban state pig farmers started to include molasses in their pig rations. Initially, they used the molasses that was produced at the end of the sugar-making process. This is known as molasses "C" and is full of all sorts of impurities.

But years ago they switched to feeding "B" molasses that was produced earlier in the process and which contains fewer impurities. When they did this, pig growth rates increased by 100 grams per day.

More recently they have developed a fermentation process based on yeast and molasses C to produce what they call terula yeast in a kind of cream. This is then mixed with molasses B in a ratio of two to one to produce a wet feed of about 36 per cent dry matter. This is fed to the pigs at about 7 kilograms per day, increasing their weight from 550 to 600 grams per day. Of the 156 sugar mills on the island, 10 of them now produce terula yeast.

The Cubans have also developed a way of using up all the organic wastes from hospitals, schools and large institutions. Each pig farm has a plant which can process from 80-90 tons of organic wastes. This is mixed with molasses and water to produce a slurry of about 19-22 per cent dry matter. As a slurry it can be pumped to the pig pens twice a day. Weight gains are about 500 grams per day. This is not so high but as the feed is very cheap, total production costs are low. Some 75,000 tons of pork are produced in this way, about three quarters of the island's total production.

World Bank/Larry Daughters

***Cane cutters now** produce a sweeter diet for Cuban pigs.*

Cuban researchers have also helped the very small pig producers who are not able to get hold of molasses but have sugar cane. They crush the cane, extract the juice and feed this to the pigs. However, as they can only squeeze out about half the juice, the canes still have a lot of sugar left which can be used to feed ruminants very successfully. This system is becoming very popular in Cuba now. ■

BBC Farming World

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Africa

# Famine in the shadows

The crisis in the Persian Gulf has sidelined the critical famine situation in several African countries, particularly Sudan and Ethiopia. Still, many NGOs, international agencies and governments continue to press for an emergency response to the worsening situation. It is estimated that Africa has a cereal shortage of about 4.5 million tons this year.

After a consortium of European NGOs and relief agencies called for some 750,000 tons of emergency aid, the European Commission pledged on 18 April a "special" package of 400,000 tons of extra food aid, mainly cereals, to help deal with famine conditions.

The food will be distributed among some 31 million people in 12 African nations, including Ethiopia and the Sudan, and Somalia, Liberia, Malawi, Angola, Mozambique, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad and Cameroon.

The pledge is in addition to an allocation of around one million tons of food aid already committed by the European Commission and the 12 European Community (EC) member states this year.

EC officials say international donors have promised some two million tons, but a big deficit will remain even with the EC's promised allocations.

In an effort to facilitate delivery of the emergency aid, EC foreign ministers issued a joint statement on 18 April calling on parties in the Ethiopian civil conflict to establish an immediate ceasefire and permit the safe passage of food aid.

Rebel factions in Ethiopia, including those from Tigray and Eritrea, recently formed a joint front against Addis Ababa.

### Sudan

For its part, the Sudanese government has agreed to cooperate with the international community to provide relief aid to its estimated 10 million people in need of food.

"The door is open to every country or organization that wants to carry out humanitarian work in the Sudan provided they are committed to the laws of the country," colonel Mohamed al Amin Khalifa, member of the ruling military council, said, adding that relief agencies should operate under the flag of the United Nations "to avoid any misunderstanding with the Sudanese government". The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) are currently the most active United Nations organizations in Sudan.

The change in policy coincides with reports from the famine-stricken western states of Darfur and Kordofan that people are already dying of starvation. According to these reports, the victims are mainly children and elderly people.

The tragedy in the two states was coupled by similar reports from war-torn southern Sudan that famine was hitting there as well. In an appeal for relief, the military governor of the southern state of Equatoria, who is based in the main southern town of Juba, warned that food was "running out" in the city.

Juba, with a population of about 400,000 people, is virtually cut off from the outside world by the seven-year civil war, and is only accessible by air.

The government has asked the representative of WFP in Nairobi to increase the airlift.

Reopening the land route to Juba is impossible because the rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which controls most of the countryside, say the government will divert the food to feed besieged soldiers in Juba.

Sudan needs 1.2 million tons of grain to feed its famine victims. So far only 30,000 tons of the total needed have reached the affected zones.

Relief agencies fear that if food supplies do not arrive quickly, the situation could be worse than the 1984/85 famine, when over 250,000 people died of starvation in Sudan alone.

Britain has already pledged about $55 million for the relief effort in Africa, part of which was meant for relief in the Sudan. A spokesperson for WFP said that the United States, Germany, Japan and Italy had also announced their willingness to contribute to the Sudan relief effort.

# East-West split stifled progress, says OAU

Strasbourg—Three decades of ideological division, casting African nations into camps of East and West, has stifled economic growth and hindered the expansion of democratic structures, the president of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) said.

Yoweri Museveni commented on the lack of ideological independence in Africa during an interview here following his address to members of the European Parliament.

Museveni, who is also president of Uganda, said that for over three decades pro-Western African nations over-produced raw materials, whereas those who had links with the East tended to develop unwieldy bureaucratic structures.

The OAU president said that, by and large, as long as African leaders declared allegiance to either ideological camp, their weaknesses were overlooked.

"Violation of human rights, corruption, suppression of democracy and mismanagement of their economies became the norm," Museveni told a plenary session of MPs.

He said African nations should be allowed to develop their own models of democracy, rather than those imposed by European states. The continent was "politically backward", he said, but "modern liberal democracy in Europe only developed with the growth of the middle class."

Museveni also held discussions with personalities from European Community (EC) institutions.

He warned that "the democratic cart should not be put before the economic horse." In Europe, said Museveni, modern democracy was a natural development from a tribal to class to classless system, while Africa was still at "the tribal stage".

He said European nations, in their keenness to encourage respect for human rights, should not over-simplify the situation in African nations by linking aid to respect for such rights.

Museveni said that he did not see any reason to "give aid to regimes which are killing people". However, European countries should not dictate to African states "like school teachers".

On fears from some quarters that Africa may be edged off the European development agenda in favour of Eastern Europe, Museveni told a plenary session of the European Parliament that it was not "such a bad thing for Africa to be forgotten a little".

Africa must move away from dependence on raw materials to stimulate economic, social and political development, he said. "The reliance on production of raw materials, which have got unstable earnings, has got sociological and political implications," he explained.

"It does not permit the emergence of a middle class. Somebody who was prosperous, say, in 1954 when coffee prices were high and was emerging from being a rural member of a middle class, is now back into the peasant class because of the collapse of coffee prices."

The small size of Africa's markets, now being developed with growth of sub-regional groups and the massive debt burden, which has grown from $48 billion in 1978 to $272 billion today, increased "starvation, instability and bloodletting", Museveni told MPs.

Museveni suggested initiatives EC could encourage to support the African continent. The building of manufacturing units and reduction of EC internal subsidies to farmers would enable increased export possibilities for African states in the EC and strengthen the purchasing power of African nations.

**Debra Percival/IPS**

Disarmament

# Key UN agency heads protest push to rearm

New York—Three top United Nations officials representing UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF joined in a call for drastic cuts in global military spending, partly in response to the post-Gulf war multibillion-dollar push to sell more arms to the Middle East and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

All three agency heads were speaking at a panel discussion organized by the North-South Roundtable established in 1978 under the auspices of the Society for International Development (SID).

Arguing that the pay-off for maintaining peace is high, William Draper, the administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), pointed out that if proposed spending cuts in the industrial countries are implemented, over $2,000 billion could be saved in military expenditures in the 1990s. "If military spending levels in the Third World are frozen," Draper said, "$150 billion could be saved by the year 2000."

Draper's comments came amidst recent reports of plans to sell billions of dollars worth of Western arms to Gulf war coalition partners—specifically Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Grant said that steps should be done to reduce the huge military slice of many countries' gross national product.

Described as "an independent intellectual forum", the North-South Roundtable brings academics, researchers and policy-makers from around the world to discuss global development issues.

**IPS**

Investment

# What attracts foreign investors?

Throughout the 1980s, a large number of developing countries liberalized their policies toward transnational corporations in an attempt to attract larger inflows of foreign direct investment. However, foreign direct investment increased in only a handful of countries.

A new study by the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC), which conducts research and policy studies and provides technical assistance to developing countries in their dealings with transnational corporations, concludes that widespread liberalizations are insufficient by themselves to improve a country's prospects for attracting foreign capital. Developing countries should concentrate as well on improving the comparative advantages they already possess, and on acquiring new ones.

The study, *The Determinants of Foreign Direct Investment and their Policy Implications*, concludes that the volume of foreign direct investment is determined by the competitive strengths of investing transnational corporations; host countries can do little to affect those firm-specific strengths. However, the economic, political and social conditions within host countries do influence where transnational corporations choose to locate.

*The study finds that, contrary to popular perceptions, most foreign direct investment is not seeking cheap labour.*

Reviewing the state of knowledge about the behaviour of

Pursuing a similar theme, the executive director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) spelled out a $9 billion programme annually for core population activities by the end of this century. "This is a substantial sum," Nafis Sadik said, but added that it was "insignificant in comparison to other expenditures, for example, military spending."

The United Nations has estimated that annual global military spending is around $1,300 billion: roughly equivalent to the entire Third World external debt.

The global military budget compares with about $9 billion needed to stem the tide of the world's rising population growth currently estimated at 5.4 billion people and expected to climb to 6.4 billion by the year 2001.

Pointing out the economic tragedy being played out in the African continent, James Grant, the executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), said the long-discussed "peace dividend" arising from the de-escalation of East-West tensions is still far from reality.

transnational companies, the study finds that, contrary to popular perceptions, most foreign direct investment is not seeking cheap labour. Rather, it is undertaken to serve national and regional markets. Transnational corporations in fact are looking to invest in economies with skilled labour, efficient supply and distribution networks, effective infrastructure and good prospects for demand growth.

While developing countries frequently find themselves in competition with neighbouring countries for foreign direct investment, offering incentives to prospective investing transnational corporations rarely works. Therefore, the study suggests, countries should emphasize policies aimed at strengthening their domestic economic base and recruiting those transnational corporations whose competitive advantages best match what the host country can offer. Reducing the regulatory burden on transnational companies is often an important pre-condition, but in the absence of local economic advantages, it cannot do the job alone.

For more information, contact Premila Nazareth, United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, United States. Tel: (212) 963-7631; Fax: (212) 963-2146.

WHO

***In the Asia-Pacific** region, Thailand has been singled out as one of the countries worst-affected by AIDS. Above, a drug user undergoes health counselling.*

Health

## AIDS education for Asia/Pacific

New York—The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has earmarked nearly $1 million in its fight against AIDS to help create awareness of the deadly disease in Asian and Pacific countries.

The regional education programme will be spent specifically to create awareness of the alarming growth rate of AIDS and its potentially devastating social and economic impact on Asia and the Pacific.

Although the spread of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which causes AIDS is exceptionally high in Africa, UNDP says there is statistical evidence now that the disease is also spreading in the Asia-Pacific region "at a distressing rate".

In Africa, one out of every 40 adults is infected with the virus, according to the latest statistics released by the Geneva-based World Health Organization (WHO).

In the Asia-Pacific region, Thailand has been singled out as one of the countries worst affected by AIDS.

The number of HIV-infected individuals in Thailand jumped from less than 1,000 in 1987 to an estimated 700,000 in 1990.

WHO has also reported an increase in the number of HIV/AIDS cases in Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Singapore.

The $870,000 earmarked for the UNDP regional programme will bring the development agency's total anti-AIDS financial commitment to over $20 million for Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Elizabeth Reid, UNDP's policy adviser on HIV/AIDS and development, says that "human survival is a precondition for human development. Both are threatened by this epidemic."

The regional AIDS project is expected to help create AIDS awareness through national seminars and a regional conference at the end of one year, and through country exchanges and education and training materials.

The Asia-Pacific information programme will focus on governments, parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations, women's groups, trade unions, religious groups and the private sector.

Awareness is also expected to be created through the strengthening of each country's human and institutional ability to identify the social and economic impact of the epidemic and consequently to plan strategies for combatting and reversing it.

This is expected to involve training, public information activities and direct assistance to women in HIV/AIDS prevention, care, support and treatment programmes.

Under the UNDP programme, women will receive special attention, not only as principal caretakers, but also as a large proportion of those infected.

Meanwhile, WHO said that World AIDS Day 1991, to be observed on 1 December, will focus on the need for individuals, groups, communities and nations to share the challenge of combatting the AIDS "pandemic".

A widespread epidemic is declared "pandemic" when it covers several continents or the entire world.

The spread of AIDS is now officially reported to WHO from 159 countries on all inhabited continents.

Hiroshi Nakajima, director-general of WHO, said recently, "No country can consider itself immune and no country can combat the disease in isolation."

As of 1 March, 334,215 diagnosed cases of AIDS were officially reported to WHO—Africa: 83,749, the Americas: 199,237, Asia: 997, Europe: 47,594 and Oceania: 2,638.

In addition, according to WHO, eight million to 10 million adults are infected with HIV globally.

Co-operation

## Eastern Europe-Latin America link-up

Quito—Romanian prime minister Petre Roman, visiting here recently, said that Latin America and Eastern Europe should create a "common front" that would help channel international financial aid to both areas.

Roman denied suggestions that economic aid now pouring into Eastern Europe would reduce the amount of Western aid available to Latin America. "This depends on what both these regions of the world can do together," he said. "We must create a joint bridge which channels this aid to both regions."

Roman, who also visited Ecuador, Argentina, Uruguay and Colombia in March, admitted during an interview with a local TV station here that the economic reforms in his country will have a "high" social cost at the expense of the Romanians. But, he added, "democracy is advancing swiftly in Romania."

A number of bilateral trade agreements were expected to be signed during Roman's stay in Quito. Ecuador will export coffee and bananas to Romania in exchange for agricultural machinery and technical expertise to build a cement factory.

**IPS**

Software

## Macau sets up institute for software technology

The United Nations University (UNU) is establishing a new research and training centre in Macau to assist developing countries in their computer software technology needs. UNU, the government of Portugal, the government of China and the governor of Macau agreed to set up the UNU International Institute for Software Technology (UNUIIST) in March in Macau.

UNUIIST is the first international institute devoted to helping build modern software technology capability in developing countries. The central objective of UNUIIST is to undertake research, advanced training and the application and dissemination of knowledge or the development and adaptation of software relevant to the needs and capabilities of the developing countries.

While the decreasing cost of mini-computers now makes them an affordable commodity for users in developing countries, they face a shortage of the appropriate software required to operate them.

The software now on the market is either of a general-purpose type or specific application software that is popular and, therefore, commercially attractive to develop.

However, there are many applications important to developing countries for which the user clientele cannot pay the cost of producing the required software, or for which the application is too specific to present a viable market for private software developers. The requirements of specific applications, at the same time, can often only be met by software systems.

There are a number of national or regional institutes for software technology, but none with an international perspective capable of mobilizing and sustaining resources from various sources and devoted to building a modern software capability in developing countries.

It is now recognized that much of the work in software application must involve the development and adaptation of software to respond to real needs, particularly in developing countries.

Furthermore, the difficulty of transferring software technology increases with system complexity. There is thus a need for some software to be locally developed, particularly since existing software development in industrialized countries cannot always be adapted to situations pertaining to developing nations.

Although the knowledge and competence gaps between the industrialized and developing countries are already very substantial, UNU expects the new institute to help specialists in developing countries to reach the state of the art in software technology.

The institute is expected to start its operation shortly with a core staff of professional and supporting personnel from a $20 million UNU fund set up by the governments of Portugal and China, and the governor of Macau. The governor may make available additional funds to cover the initial operational costs of the institute.

UNDP

Fishing

## Oceans overfished

Rome (FAO)—According to a report from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the demand for fish is seriously outstripping the natural replenishment of fish resources. This difference between supply and demand is becoming greater and greater because the world population, estimated to reach 6.5 billion by the year 2000, will generate a demand far higher than the present catch of 100 million tons annually.

The decline in available fish and mounting pollution problems, according to Edouard Saouma, FAO director-general, are creating serious problems for world commercial fishing.

Saouma reported that industrial pollution, demographic and urban growth, imprudent commercial fishing practices and marine culture are "endangering the marine environment and the sustainability of marine resources".

These problems come at a moment when world fishing is posting a notable growth in production, rising from 70 million tons annually in 1979 to 100 million tons in 1990.

The report added that the increasing demand has forced fishing fleets to increase their catch, and this is threatening the existence of some species of fish.

FAO recommended a better use of the catch incidental to drift-net fishing operations, the reduction of post-catch losses and the encouragement of economic exploitation of unconventional species.

The report also urged that measures be adopted to improve the situation of fishing and small-scale aquaculture communities, and that they be encouraged to participate in the decisions affecting their well-being.

Latin America

## New try for common market

Four Latin American countries have agreed to form a common market in the southern cone of South America. The heads of state of Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay, who met recently in Asunción, the Paraguayan capital, signed a treaty to create a free trade zone known as Mercosur by 1995.

This third major attempt to establish a degree of economic integration in Latin America was prompted by the prospect of a united Europe in 1992, and the United States' call for a free trade zone from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego.

Lack of political will has defeated previous attempts at Latin American economic integration. Even as late as 1989, only 35 per cent of Latin America's trade was within the region.

Mexico broke Latin ranks when it announced that it wanted to join in a free trade zone with the United States and Canada. Sixty-five per cent of Mexico's trade is with the United States, and less than 4 per cent is with the rest of Latin America.

Chile, the relative success story in the region, is doing alright on its own and has declined to join any new club until it demonstrates it is successful.

**Frank Nowikowski**

# Now comes the hard part

**by Michael McCoy**

Geneva—With the sense that time is running short, the complex preparations for the Earth Summit in Rio are now well underway. After three weeks of deliberations here ending in early April, the second session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) of government delegates moved forward in its planning for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Several of the procedural steps necessary to define the framework and the structure in which the PrepCom can begin the negotiations on the programme and agenda for UNCED were finally agreed upon by assembled government delegates.

Given the scope of the Earth Summit, which aims at nothing less than arriving at some consensus on international policies to protect the global ennvironment and assure sustainable development, many participants voiced concern that reaching agreement on the myriad issues that underlie this goal may well be impossible.

It was argued that any decisions made by the Earth Summit must include the Northern countries as well as the South, ensuring that the politics of implementation be universal.

Still, after much delay, the delegates managed to establish the key third working group whose job is to determine the form of the post-conference mechanisms that will actually implement the decisions taken in Rio. Relative to working groups I and II, which are more issue-based (i.e. working group I, atmosphere issues, biodiversity, land and agriculture, biotechnology and forestry; working group II, oceans, toxic chemicals, and hazardous wastes), working group III is more procedural and will examine the legal and institutional framework of international agreements and instruments as well as set a charter of the rights and obligations of players in the environment and development process at international, national and regional levels. It must also come up with a viable plan to strengthen international and national institutions to carry out these tasks in the future.

A sure sign of progress was the extent to which delegates have begun to openly grapple with serious differences in positions on key issues. For example, the Malaysian delegate, in response to proposals for a forestry convention in working group I, raised an issue that will certainly surface repeatedly in months to come. The proponents of a forestry convention had limited the definition of forests under discussion as "tropical."

In the spirit of "obligations and rights" of all countries, Malaysia suggested that the forests covered under the proposed convention be made truly universal to include boreal and temperate forests, those found mostly in the North. In other words, he argued that any discussion or decisions made by the Earth Summit must include the Northern countries as well as the South, ensuring that the politics of implementation be universal.

### Spread thin

Another point of contention, more procedural in nature, is that separately agreed upon conventions and charters taken on by UNCED require the availability of separate teams of government representatives, often meeting in venues thousands of miles from either Geneva or New York where governments maintain standing missions.

By making the process separable from the General Assembly, extra financial and human resource burdens are placed on already financially stretched Southern governments. Thus there is resistence to the tendency for the Northern governments to take this problem for granted in their continued call for ever more numerous conventions and charters.

Much of the difficult negotiations in the preparatory process have been left for the third PrepCom session, scheduled to take place in Geneva from 12 August to 4 September. The first two weeks of that meeting, as usual, will be devoted to the activities of the three working groups and the last week for the consideration of plenary items, including issues related to human settlements and urban poverty.

But the overarching issue that most clearly highlights the North-South divide within UNCED is the question of the new and additional resources necessary to assure the implementation of sustainable development strategies at the national level and the resources to assure the enforcement of globally agreed upon environmental standards (see related box ).

The North and South have gotten into a circular argument on this issue during the first and second PrepComs. In general, Northern governments do not want to start talking about how much money needs to be raised in regard to "new and additional resources" until they have a clear picture about what the shape and size of the programmes they assist in funding will be.

The Southern governments, on the other hand, find it difficult to continue to develop elaborate universal programmes that would require their resources at the national level until they are assured that Northern governments will make the necessary "additional" financial commitments.

By August, however, the lack of time before the conference should force both sides to begin to negotiate. All requested documents and working papers prepared by the conference Secretariat will have been prepared by then and comments and revisions on those papers suggested from the second PrepCom will have been incorporated and turned around for governments to act on. They will have no choice but to face each other and begin to talk about these tough questions.

### Where is development?

Many delegates and certainly a good portion of the NGOs present in Geneva continue to worry about the missing "development" component in this conference on environment and development. The task of integrating over twenty "cross-cutting issues" into the topic areas of working groups I and II that include most of the development questions may be more than the UNCED Secretariat and the delegations can accomplish. As Ahmed Ghlaf from Algeria and a UNCED rapporteur commented, "We have de-linked environment and development."

His comment reveals the serious concern many delegates have about the role of development in the Earth Summit. If, as much of the international community maintains, the development models used in recent decades have been inadequate and in fact "unsustainable", if not out and out failures, can the Earth Summit come up with anything new, much less successfully link environment and development in creative ways?

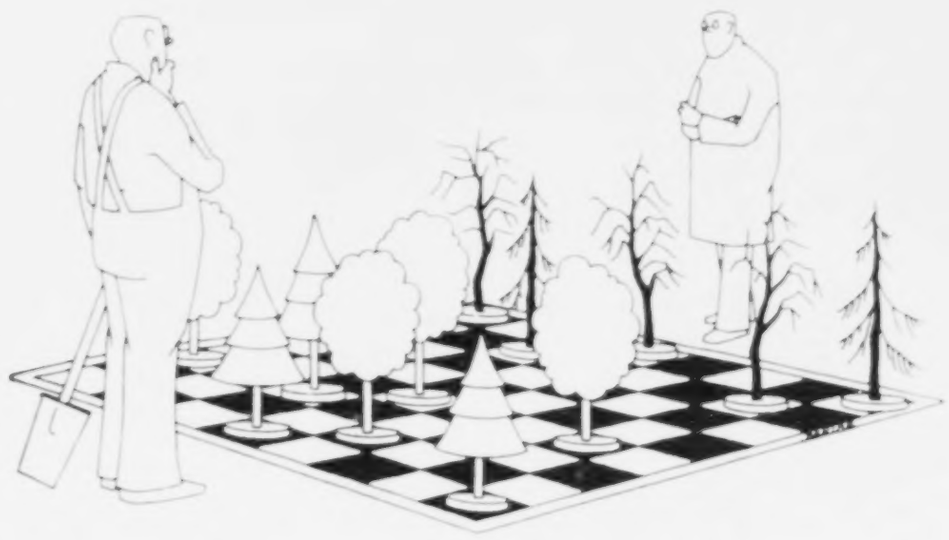
It was clear from the months of debate in the United Nations General Assembly, when the terms of reference were being set for UNCED in 1989, that this was completely unexplored territory for the United Nations system, and governments.

The United Nations approach to global challenges and issues in the past have been more simply defined, conferences had traditionally been held on single issues such as energy, population, food, women, or disarmament. Government and UN officials, academic experts, and field project officers usually defined their expertise as in either environment or development. Asking professionals, whose education, training and practice have led them to think in narrower specialties within environment or development, to now consider the more complex notion of "sustainable development" is perhaps too much to expect, at least in the short term.

So if progress seems slow, difficult and the terms of reference for UNCED and the debate confused, it may require more time than the 13 remaining months leading up to Rio 1992 to integrate the theoretical, systemic and practical implications of "environmentally sustainable development," and what this means for governments and their citizens at all levels, international, national, regional and local. All in all, it just may turn out to be the most challenging exercise facing the international community as we approach the next century.

**Michael McCoy**

is an international development consultant and an executive committee member of the United States Citizens' Network on UNCED, a US NGO. He attended the second session of the PrepCom as an "official NGO observer" on the US Delegation for the Citizens' Network.



# Tlatelolco Declaration: Who pays the bill?

Mexico—In the forthcoming Earth Summit in Brazil in 1992, developing countries will present a huge "environmental tab" to the industrialized nations.

The ecological bill for Latin America and the Caribbean alone is likely to reach between $10 billion and $20 billion a year.

The list of Third World demands will include, among other things, a "just and lasting solution" to the foreign debt problems of developing nations. Latin America's foreign debt is currently in excess of $422 billion.

These were the main conclusions of a regional conference held in Mexico City in March, and attended by 34 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The conference, organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), was primarily intended to bring together most of the region's economic ministers.

However, the final conference document, "The Tlatelolco Declaration", establishes the inextricable links between development and the environment, and calls for sustainable models of development which will not generate environmental problems.

The idea of sustainable development was first put forward in 1975 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). However, it is only in recent years that the concept has been officially accepted by various governments.

The ECLAC conference also stressed the "close relationship between poverty and environmental degradation", and the need to address the former to solve the latter.

Some of the tough and forthright demands included in the "Tlatelolco Declaration" indicate that the 1992 negotiations between developed and Third World nations are likely to be difficult.

The document expresses the regional consensus that the countries of the North should bear the major financial cost of reversing environmental damage, "on the basis of their responsibility for the global process of environmental degradation".

Mexican president Carlos Salinas de Gortari made a direct call to representatives of developed nations attending the conference (Canada, France, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom and United States) to recognize "a principle of equity among nations, whereby those responsible for the greatest damage must also provide most of the solutions".

According to reports prepared by ECLAC and UNEP, the countries of the North bear an overwhelming responsibility for five main aspects of environmental degradation—depletion of the ozone layer; global warming; destruction of biodiversity in Third World countries; pollution of rivers, oceans, and soils; and exports of toxic wastes.

The "Tlatelolco Declaration" also included an explicit condemnation of the continued practice of developed nations to export to Third World nations dangerous or harmful substances, products, processes and technologies which are banned in their countries of origin.

Most delegates and United Nations experts consulted indicated that some industrialized nations are willing to acknowledge their major responsibility for the world's environmental degradation.

However, to date these countries have offered to contribute only $1.5 billion to the World Environment Fund—a somewhat modest sum, given that Latin American countries are currently spending a total of $2 billion a year on their environmental programmes.

Over the next four years, Mexico will spend $2.52 billion on programmes to counteract air pollution in the capital. The Mexican government will provide 58 per cent of the funds, and the remainder will be provided by the governments of Japan and the United States, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

None of the delegates at the Mexico conference ventured to predict the outcome of the "environmental tab", which the Third World will discuss—either separately or jointly—with the industrialized countries, during the 1992 world conference in Rio de Janeiro.

However, the concerns expressed in the "Tlatelolco Declaration" are clear: "In the 20 years since the Stockholm Treaty [1972] was approved, there has been severe environmental deterioration, and serious degradation of the world's ecosystems."

The final conference document concludes, "environmental deterioration is intimately linked to unsustainable models of development, which have prevailed especially in developed nations."

**Mario de Cautin/IPS**

# Chronicle of a slum-dweller: From bats to bathrooms

*Continued from page 1*

La Nación

***A view of the Warnes*** *complex shortly before it was demolished last December; "cartoneros" can be seen in the foreground.*

tary detention center, it was destined to be inhabited by successive waves of urban squatters. When it was scheduled for demolition last year, there were nearly 700 families living in appalling conditions in the ruins.

*The shelter had become a teeming slum, without sewers, plumbing or electric wiring, and where bats fluttered along the corridors.*

By then the shelter had become a teeming slum, without sewers, plumbing or electric wiring, where bats fluttered along the corridors. Bronchial diseases and intestinal infections were common among the residents, more than half of whom were under 13.

At the time of our visit, Gladys Miño knew that she and her neighbours would not have to take it much longer. Within weeks the Warnes families would be moving to new homes built by the City Housing Commission in a community that the squatters themselves had helped to plan.

The Warnes complex highlighted an increasingly common practice among the poor in Buenos Aires—the occupation of dilapidated older buildings in preference to the *villas de emergencia*, or shantytowns, in the industrial belt on the city outskirts. The collapse of industrial employment in the past decade has driven the poor to seek shelter closer the the inner city, where they can find or invent some kind of service occupation.

Of the 3 million people in the Federal Capital, 60,000 live in *villas de emergencia*, whereas five times as many are in substandard older buildings nearer the centre, according to Alfredo Máximo Garay, director of planning for the city of Buenos Aires and the over-all co-ordinator of the Warnes resettlement. Some rent rooms in *conventillos* (tenements), or *inquilinatos* (small hotels), while other squat in abandoned buildings—although few are as large as Warnes.

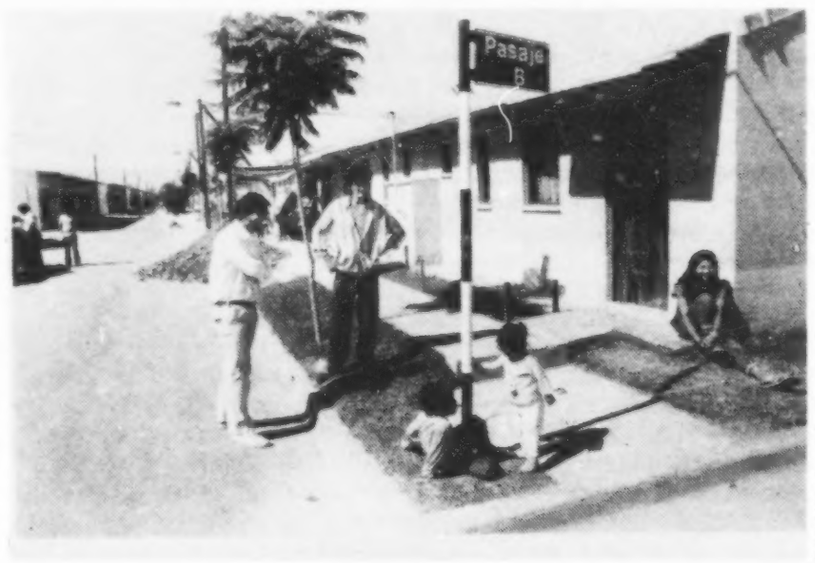
In Warnes, Gladys estimated, about 40 per cent of the families had a member with "steady" work, as domestic servants, day labourers or operating a little business within the shelter itself.

Another 40 per cent, she figured, were self-employed *cartoneros* in one of Buenos Aires' few growth industries, recycling refuse. Entire families can make up to $30 for a night's scavenging. By comparison, says Miño, her husband makes about $340 a month in a cosmetics factory. The other 20 per cent, jobless, are presumably scraping along much the way Gladys and her husband did when they first arrived at Warnes in 1987.

At that time she was pregnant, and both were out of work and had been sleeping in the central railroad station, El Retiro. When they saw the big, apparently empty, Warnes buildings one day from a bus, they decided to move in.

The complex was not quite empty, but the half a dozen families already there welcomed them. The couple installed themselves in bare rooms on the second floor, where they spent the next three months by candlelight, terrified by the swooping bats. Finally they managed to get an electric cable half a block long to reach the apartment, where a neighbour had tapped into the current from a traffic light.

For most of their first year there, the young couple, now with a baby, gathered their meals from the garbage, collecting, the stale bread thrown out by the bakeries on Sundays. Gladys built a fire in the room in order to cook. They carried water up from a fire hydrant on the street.




Eduardo Longoni

***A street scene*** *in the new neighbourhood.*

Word of free shelter at Warnes spread, and many more families moved in. They soon organized themselves and joined the newly-formed Movement of Villas and Needy Neighbourhoods, or *villero* (slum-dweller) movement, agitating for recognition and services from the city authorities.

Gladys became a delegate of Building One of Warnes and active in the city-wide organization.

For Garay, the city planning director, such grassroots, neighbourhood-based organizations represent "a new political potentiality" in Argentina, partly filling the power vacuum left by the weakening of the trade unions. And the Peronist government, it is clear, wants to keep them on its side.

In December 1989, 7,000 *villeros* demonstrated in front of Government House to demand that president Carlos Saúl Menem sign a decree, and to applaud him when he did, enabling squatters on federally-owned land to purchase their lots.

The case of Warnes, however, was distinct. The former owners of the confiscated land had won a lawsuit for its return "in its original condition"—without buildings or inhabitants. When the mayor, Carlos Grosso, tried to break the news gently to the people that they would have to leave Warnes, he was surprised by their reaction, according to Gladys Miño. "We were delighted! We said, 'But, of course, that's just what we want!'"

Since the city was not empowered to purchase or rent buldings, the only thing to do was build new housing for the Warnes squatters on city-owned land and the Housing Commission decided on a tract on the other side of town, in Villa Soldati. The cost of the entire new settlement was estimated at around $5 million.

But Warnes' evil reputation had spread to residents in Villa Soldati, themselves not much better off than Warnes, who burned tires in violent protests against the move. One protester told reporters, "We've already got enough garbage, now they're bringing more. All those people are delinquents!"

To mollify the people of Villa Soldati, the city had to carry out public works in their area. The Housing Commission also had to contend with people like Gladys Miño representing the Warnes people themselves, who became active participants in the process, demanding that the new community include a first aid facility, a police station and a school, as well as the essential infrastructure of sewers, plumbing and electricity.

"What seems to me interesting," reflects Garay, "in the conflict that came up with the organization of Warnes and of all these neighbourhoods, is that it was possible not just to build these houses, but this whole combination of construction works, that had never been a priority in the city budgets. And that's why I say the presence of these social actors changes the relationships of power, and therefore the social policies and the decision about the society has more to do with the power relations of the social actors than with the objective needs for the works."

Instead of simply drawing lots for the new houses, the Warnes residents met to decide who they wanted to live next to. They also negotiated the purchase payments to the city and insisted on starting payments before they moved in, so the city would be legally bound to follow through. The few families that chose not to take the new housing were offered free transport, with their goods, to their home towns.

Eduardo Longoni

***Gladys Miño stands*** *in her new home in Villa Soldati.*

The move in December was carefully orchestrated to be as different as possible from the forced evacuations of the recent past, when the army would load squatters onto olive-drab trucks and carry them off to dump them in their provinces or, for the many illegal Chilean and Bolivian immigrants, on the national border. This time the vehicles were from the civil defence, the trip was to new homes, and the people appeared glad to go.

Gladys Miño has no doubts that she made the right decision. The place is certainly far more sanitary, and she and her husband are owners. But there are problems. The little houses are not yet very attractive, and some of the owners do not seem to be caring for them very well. Already, she says, "40 or 50" of the houses have been sold—which is strictly prohibited by the terms of the original purchase, but people have found ways to do it. "It's not enough to be alarming," she says, but it is disappointing after all the work of organizing the community.

But Gladys Miño has found a new identity as the result of this struggle. "Maybe, before, I didn't have a vision of things," she says. "Today, I consider myself a *villera*. A person of the *villa*. And I'm proud to be one. I am very proud of my fellow workers in the Movement of Villas and Barrios, because I believe it is the just struggle." ■

*Geoffrey Fox is a specialist in Latin American social and political issues. His latest book is* The Land and People of Argentina *(HarperCollins, 1990).*

# Asians return to Uganda

By Sensasi Benjamin

Nineteen years after they were expelled from Uganda by former president Idi Amin, Asians are slowly but steadily returning to Uganda, the wealthier among them reclaiming confiscated properties. Immigration officials put the figure at over 10,000 since 1986 when Yoweri Museveni's National Resistance Army (NRA) took power.

President Museveni's government has shown considerable interest in the return of Asians and helping them repossess their property. Last summer a protocol was signed with Ishmaili leader Aga Khan to return his buildings and other property.

Another Asian tycoon, Hamitlal Gandesha, has repossessed his property, which includes blocks of apartments in Kampala. Nakasero, one of the four major soap factories in the country, was given back to its former Asian owners last year.

Leading hotels have been given back to their previous owners. Imperial Hotel, which cost the Uganda government millions of shillings in renovations, was returned to the Aziz Kassim Lakha family of India last year. Other major hotels are scheduled for repossession.

About 300 properties out of an estimated 7,000 left behind by Asians are to be given back in the near future. Unclaimed properties will be sold off. The local press has run lists of properties to be sold. Most potential buyers are reported to be Asians.

Since last July when the government legalized the parallel foreign exchange market, locally known as the Kibanda Market, more than 30 foreign exchange offices have sprung up in Kampala, most of them operated by returned Asians. Pre-1972 Asians were investing in long-term ventures; today they seem more interested in the quick returns of the money market.

These businesses are among the highest revenue earners in the country and much foreign exchange business has shifted to them from the Bank of Uganda's foreign exchange control department. Between July and December last year, $100 million is reported to have gone through the exchange offices, 90 per cent of it handled by three Asian-owned investment houses.

The government still finds itself facing serious shortages of foreign exchange because of the fall in the international price of its biggest earner, coffee. Annual returns from coffee have fallen from $400 million to $150 million.

The Gulf war also led a number of Asians to turn to Uganda to do business in East and Central Africa. The central position of Uganda in this region, ensuring easy distribution, the availability of foreign exchange and the openness of the country's borders have all encouraged traders.

Economic aspects apart, some Asians who had escaped to neighbouring countries have been driven back to Uganda because of harassment in those countries. For example, animosity against Asians has grown in Kenya.

But not all Ugandans are happy about the returning Asians. Most disgruntled are those who had taken over the businesses and buildings belonging to Asians and are now threatened by repossession.

The Uganda Muslim Supreme Council, refusing to relinquish its right to Asian property given it by Idi Amin, said: "Until we receive an express directive under the hand of the president, we shall not be in a position to relinquish our rights on these properties." ■

GEMINI

*Sensasi Benjamin is a regular contributor to the* Weekly Topic *in Kampala.*

UNHCR

***Thousands of Asians,*** *many born in Uganda, were forced to flee the country in the 1970s. Many have decided to return and are being welcomed by the Ugandan government.*

# One in every six an Indian

Arvind Garg

India's latest census, conducted in March, shows efforts to defuse the population explosion have met some success but nothing can prevent India from joining China in the one thousand million club by the end of the 1990s. India's population growth rate has dropped for the first time in 50 years—from an average 2.4 per cent per year during the 1970s to 2.3 per cent during the 1980s. But the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) says the figure will not fall to the balanced 1.1 per cent rate targeted by planners for the year 2001. Already, one in every six persons in the world is an Indian. According to the recently released provisional results of India's latest 10-yearly head count, there were 843,930,861 Indians, with over 160 million Indians added to the country's population during the 1980s alone. This is less than the over 853 million figure projected by the United Nations world population chart for 1990. United Nations estimates project an Indian population of 1,500 million by 2025.

China

# TV mating game in Beijing

By Zhao Hong

Beijing—In a country where the search for a spouse is a task largely left to official matchmakers or relatives, appearing on television to actively solicit a partner is nothing less than a revolution in Chinese behaviour.

But ever since its creation, Beijing Television's (BTV) dating game programme, "Let's Meet Tonight", has been a runaway hit with the capital's 10 million viewers.

"It takes real guts to appear on TV," said a young Beijing girl. "But people are more open now. They are not afraid to be shown on TV looking for a spouse."

Indeed, the 15-minute programme does not appear to be in danger of running out of men and women to feature in its four-times-weekly show. The station is swamped with applications to appear on the programme despite the stiff $12 entry fee.

"TV opens up a new way for people to seek love. It is a change from parent-arranged marriages, matchmaking offices and marriage ads in newspapers in that people have more choice and a clearer image of the subjects," said BTV chief editor Yu Zhifang.

Each programme features a selection of five subjects shown working, playing, reading or cooking in two-minute videotaped sequences.

The anchor or the subjects themselves describe their characteristics, hobbies, family background and marital history to prospective partners in the vast televiewing audience.

People who have appeared in the programme, the fourth such show to run in China, have included businessmen, retired officials, journalists, factory workers, teachers and even a graduate student studying in the United States.

"Our programme differs from TV dating games in Japan and the United States which are meant mainly to entertain. When the Chinese let themselves be shown on television looking for a spouse, they are serious," said anchorwoman Yang Guang.

A surprisingly large number of applicants have a high professional and social status, being the most receptive to new ideas, says Yang.

Liao Guangrong, a 27-year-old chemical engineer working for a French company in Beijing, said he joined the programme because "TV provides me with a better chance to know more people outside my immediate environment."

Ren Li, a middle-aged and divorced journalist who said she was looking for a "virtuous" husband, met a sports coach through the show. The two have been dating regularly since.

Yang said attractive women and men with above-average social status and housing are the most likely to receive responses.

Yu emphasizes, however, that the programme aims to serve and educate, to "establish among our audience healthy thinking about marriage".

For instance, one episode presented a 65-year-old widower looking for a wife, to encourage the idea that older people also have the right "to love and be loved"—a notion rejected by most Chinese.

In another programme, which featured a retired worker with a 12-room house, Yang reminded the audience not to put material things above all other qualities.

Yang also sets limits on what subjects are allowed to say. She admonished a young girl who said she wanted to appear on TV to find a foreigner so she could live a wealthy life and emigrate.

"Your motive is wrong," she told the girl. "However, if a foreigner falls in love with you after seeing you on TV, it is a different thing." The girl dropped the idea of appearing on the show.

The programme follows a first-come, first-served principle and will not reject applicants, except in the interest of "keeping the age balance", which means including people of different ages in one programme.

Yang has 50 applicants waiting to be filmed, a process that could run well into the next year.

The show has even created a spin-off. Because some people have written that they like the programme but are afraid to appear on television, the station has started giving dance parties where singles can meet. ■

IPS

# People vs Inevitable

# Nature parks may be turning into combat zones

By María Elena Hurtado

Adding to the slaughter of wildlife, the frequent cold-blooded murders of poachers in the game reserves of Kenya and Zimbabwe now highlight the clash of interests surrounding the conservation of wildlife, particularly in poorer developing countries.

Heavily-armed poachers have no qualms in killing game wardens who get in their way. But in this escalating dirty war, they too must pay the price: last year over 34 black rhinoceros were killed in Zimbabwe alone.

Less publicized conflicts are daily events in the world's 3,500 nature conservation areas—a reminder of the difficulties of protecting natural wealth in the face of human need and greed. One thing is certain: as the world's population soars from 5.3 billion today to 8.4 billion by 2025, legal and armed conflicts over the resources of areas preserved in their natural state are becoming more frequent.

*Conservation agencies are attempting to integrate protected areas into social and economic development plans.*

"We will see even armed battles in the next 10 years as more people settle in the surroundings of protected areas and want to get at their resources," says Jim Thorsell, senior adviser on national heritage at the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

Protected areas are places where the use of animals and plants is either forbidden or restricted. These range from old-style national parks, where no economic activity is allowed, to the so-called multiple-use management areas where conservation sustains the production of timber and wildlife for economic use.

The question now facing wildlife managers is how to minimize the potential for conflict and win support for nature conservation by making it valuable to local people. Governments and conservation organizations must find ways to reconcile the economic and social needs of people living in or near protected wildlife areas with the need to conserve resources in these areas.

## Colonial legacy

In many developing regions, colonial rulers turned large areas into national parks where fishing, hunting or collecting plants was prohibited. Often, communities were evicted arbitrarily from their traditional areas, laying the grounds for resentment and hostility toward the protection schemes.

Today, the majority of residents of Third World countries cannot afford the high entry fees to the most exclusive parks and this also creates resentment. As Hugh Lampley, who spent 30 years working in Africa, wrote in *Parks* magazine recently: "The parks seem to them to be reserved for foreigners, especially as entry is usually only by motor vehicle and few African citizens possess them."

Communities who lost their traditional grazing or hunting grounds to national parks have not given up the hope of reclaiming them.

In February 1989, armed Bodo tribal people reclaimed a large part of the Manas National Park in northeast India, the home of 19 endangered species of mammals and, since 1986, a world heritage site. Rangers were killed and park installations destroyed.

Bad relations between park managers and the Bodo people and lack of access to the park's resources are behind the conflict, which is putting the very existence of the reserve at risk. Manas is an extreme case, but the lesson is clear. Local people will only protect wildlife if they benefit from it.

Rick Vevenhaven/WWF

***In Zambia, the rhino*** *population is down from around 1,500 in 1981 to an estimated 100, perhaps not enough to regenerate themselves.*

Ripping down the fences between parks and people is the new philosophy for the management of national parks and protected areas. National and international nature conservation agencies are just starting to put the philosophy into practice by integrating the preservation of these wildlife-rich areas into social and economic development plans.

"Without the total cooperation of the people living around them," says Clive Wicks of Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), "these areas do not have a future."

Boyd Norton

***An armed anti-poaching*** *unit is required to patrol the Tsavo National Park in Kenya.*

WWF, centred in the United Kingdom, and most conservation bodies have radically changed their approach to conservation over the last five years. "In the old days, wildlife projects were species-oriented and run by biologists. Now any large WWF project, say covering 3,000 to 4,000 square kilometres and 30,000 to 40,000 people, will start with a socio-economic study on the impact the national park will have on the planned park," says Wicks.

It is not a coincidence that the proposed theme for the Fourth World Protected Areas Congress in 1992 is "Protected Areas and Human Survival: enhancing the role of conservation in sustaining society".

To fulfil the international conservation aims of extending some form of legal protection to 10 per cent of all terrestrial ecosystems, conservation will need to be linked to social needs. The last World Congress on National Parks, held in Indonesia in 1982, hoped that a global system of national parks and other protected areas covering a tenth of all terrestrial ecosystems would be in place by 1992. But as the deadline approaches, the goal remains elusive.

And it is not difficult to see why: in Africa, for example, it would mean increasing the protected area by about 90,000 additional square kilometres—an area the size of Malawi. With Africa's population growing by an average of 3 per cent a year, it cannot be achieved with old-type national parks encircled by fences and guarded by armed wardens.

"In the future, most new protected areas will allow a more flexible approach to land use. Even national parks will be managed more broadly, taking the human dimension into account," says Thorsell.

IUCN lists 10 different categories of protected areas*. They include world heritage sites, biosphere reserves whose main aim is to preserve species diversity, protected landscapes such as Machu Picchu in Peru as well as wildlife sanctuaries such as Manas and most of the national reserves in Kenya. One of the most famous examples of the newer multiple-use park is the Ngorongoro

# . wildlife: showdown?

*The debate rages among environmentalists as to how to most effectively conserve our natural resources while fostering human development. In wildlife parks and game reserves around the world, however, the battle on the ground has gotten ugly and bloody. The problem of poachers of endangered wildlife is only the most dramatic manifestation of larger and more complex issues of reconciling conflicts between people and precious nature reserves. To mark World Environment Day, on 5 June, we asked María Elena Hurtado to report on the options that have emerged to help prevent this destructive and unnecessary confrontation.*

Conservation Area of Tanzania.

The consensus is growing that his natural wealth cannot be effectively managed as an island in a sea of poverty and environmental collapse. Even Kenya, which has protected its national parks with a firm hand, is beginning to recognize that it needs the support of the Kenyan people to preserve its superb wildlife.

To win that support, Kenya's Wildlife Service (KWS) is planning to share the revenues from tourism—around KSh432 million ($18 million) in 1989—with people living next to parks. It will also set up a community conservation service to work with people living next to parks and reserves.

The neighbours of Amboseli Park in Kenya and Annapurna in Nepal are already receiving some of the revenues from tourism. But these are exceptions.

Many national parks cannot operate if they are cut off from their surroundings. In Africa, much of the wildlife moves out of areas of absolute protection for part of the year. Yet, dispersal areas are disappearing fast as population increases. People living in these areas will only accept the disruption and destruction caused by the animals if they obtain economic benefits from their protection.

Only a few of the world's national parks can expect a windfall from tourism, however. This means that to reconcile the needs of people and wildlife there will have to be more multiple-use areas which combine the protection of wildlife with the sustainable use of water, timber, animals and other resources.

The Aïr-Ténéré National Nature Reservation in Niger is one such area. At Aïr-Ténéré, hunting is forbidden within a demarcated area but is allowed for specific purposes in another. In a third area, exploitation is forbidden but tourism is allowed. Indigenous people can settle there and collect dead wood in a non-destructive way, but not hunt.

Poachers of animals and plants do not generally live inside protected areas but around them. So the trend is to set up buffer zones in the areas adjacent to national parks. The use of the land in these zones is partially restricted, but there are special development programmes for the people living in them. The idea is that if people are better off, they will no longer need to hunt or fish illegally in the parks.

## Buffer zones

The plan for saving the Soberanía National Park, just a few minutes' drive from Panama City, is a classic buffer zone arrangement. Like most parks in the tropics, Soberanía is being steadily reduced as land-starved subsistence farmers encroach at its edges.

Soberanía is one of the most accessible rainforests in the Americas with an extraordinary collection of tropical flora and fauna that includes wild orchids, 400 species of birds, electric-blue butterflies and howler monkeys. To help protect it, ANCON, Panama's leading conservation organization, is providing 500 peasants an alternative to slash-and-burn farming.

Working side by side with the farmers, ANCON scientists are demonstrating that some of the ancient farming methods, combined with new high-yielding crops and fast-growing trees, will produce sufficient firewood, food and construction materials without extracting them from Soberanía.

*There will have to be more multiple-use areas which combine the protection of wildlife with the sustainable use of water, timber, animals and other resources.*

But there are problems with buffer zones. One is that they are outside the control of national conservation agencies. Another is that many villagers living in the outskirts of parks do not own the land. If both problems are not resolved, any buffer zone arrangement will always be precarious.

Another potential problem is that increased incomes in buffer zones may also attract more people, thus defeating their purpose of reducing pressure on national parks. Where local people eat wild animals—as is the case in the forested parts of west Africa but not in east Africa where cattle meat is preferred—better standards of living may push up the price of meat, making poaching of the parks' wildlife more attractive. This may become a problem, for example, in Korup National Park in the south-west corner of Cameroon.

But despite all the talk about projects that integrate conservation of wildlife and economic and social development of people, little is happening. Only a handful of projects that have been operating for at least four years—Annapurna is one, Boscosa in Costa Rica is another—have started by studying the needs of the community though socio-economic studies feature in most new projects.

Few people living around parks are being compensated for the destruction of their wildlife or the lack of access to the resources of national parks. And there is scant evidence that projects which combine the protection of natural resources and economic and social development can protect national parks as effectively as park guards and fences.

But breaking down decades of suspicion and animosity towards parks and their keepers, and finding ways of combining nature conservation and development, will take time. It will require new laws that allow for multiple-use areas and buffer zones. It will also require substantial international support for wildlife-rich but financially-poor Third World countries.

More important, a new mentality is needed: Wildlife services that are committed to the people-centred approach to conservation as well as a new generation of park wardens, concerned as much with human welfare as with botany and biology. ■

**Managing Protected Areas in the Tropics, compiled by Jon and Kathy MacKinnon, Graham Child and Jim Thorsell (IUCN, Gland, Switzerland)*

*María Elena Hurtado, a Chilean journalist living in London, is the editor of* Panoscope, *the environment and development magazine of the Panos Institute. A version of this article originally appeared in* Panoscope.

Boyd Norton

***Over 185,000 elephants*** *were killed by poachers in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania between 1977 and 1989.*

# Picking up the pieces

*Continued from page 1*

able to feed itself, with electricity, water and sewage facilities totally destroyed and medical facilities unable to cope.

The threats of famine and epidemics are now a reality. The United Nations, working with aid organizations, has placed a priority on the restoration of energy production in Iraq, so that food and medical supplies that are imported can be preserved and distributed, water can be purified, sewage can be pumped away and cleansed and crops irrigated.

*Iraq has been relegated to a pre-industrial age, but with all the disabilities of post-industrial dependency on intensive use of energy and technology.*

In response to the Ahtissari report, secretary-general Javier Pérez de Cuéllar issued an appeal on 8 April for $178 million in emergency aid for Iraq.

## Refugee crisis

By the end of April, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that there were more than 900,000 refugees in Iran, 600,000 in Turkey, "several hundred thousand more clogging the highways" out of Iraq, and 30,000 Iraqis on the southern border with Kuwait. Sadako Ogata, who became high commissioner for refugees only in February, said that this was "the fastest growing refugee outflow in the 40-year history of the office".

Initially UNHCR expected only 100,000 refugees coming out of post-war Iraq. By the time the deluge of refugees reached its peak of nearly two million in April, Aga Khan appealed for just over $400 million in aid for the refugees in Iran and Turkey. Obtaining these funds and providing relief has been nowhere near as successful as the mobilization of the vastly greater resources for war had been over the previous six months.

The television pictures of Kurds massed on hillsides in Iraq, Turkey and Iran added yet more stark images of the many victims of the war. There have been rough estimates of 1,000 deaths a day throughout the refugee population, 80 per cent of whom are women and children. Daniel Tarantola, chief of emergency relief operations of the World Health Organization (WHO), said, "What we see is a shift from a man-fighting-man disaster to a man-fighting-environment disaster, an environment that has become extremely hazardous.".

Albert Peters, director of the New York office of UNHCR, said, "The most urgent need is to distribute the goods" that include $238 million worth of food, medicine, tents, plastic covering, mattresses, blankets, gerry cans and water purification kits.

The World Food Programme (WFP), responsible for securing most of the world's emergency food aid and involved in the Gulf conflict since the first refugees flowed into Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq last August, announced that it had secured pledges of enough emergency food aid to feed all Kurdish refugees in Turkey and Iran until the end of April.

The relief effort has given rise to charges of inefficiency on the part of those providing the aid. Because of the overwhelming dimensions of the disruptions and the political questions involved in the Gulf, nerves are raw. Governments complain about the United Nations, the United Nations diplomatically complains about the governments and there is considerable concern in high United Nations circles that some of its new responsibilities, such as the takeover of the camps inside Iraq agreed to at the end of April, give rise to expectations that no organization could possibly fulfil.

Western officials and relief workers have charged that the United Nations is moving too slowly. After visiting border areas, Tony Hall, the chair of the United States House of Representative's Select Committee on Hunger, called United Nations efforts in the region "indecisive and spread very thin" but also noted that work was "notoriously under-funded." While some United Nations officials have dismissed the charges, others acknowledge the need for better co-ordination.

## Logistical nightmare

They note the "logistical nightmares" of getting aid to people trapped on mountainsides or of travelling in regions where the roads are bomb-damaged. Aga Khan said there was no way the United Nations could establish in a few days the kind of assistance needed. "We are no match for hundreds of helicopters and thousands of troops," he added.

WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) got supplies to refugees in Iran relatively quickly because the materiel was already in Jordan since the first flood of refugees came out of Iraq and Kuwait starting last August. And, of course, the armies of the alliance have also been able to move in aid since aircraft and supplies were already in the region.

The stark conditions of the refugees and displaced are overwhelming the attention of development professionals and the public alike, diverting attention from the longer-term problems of rebuilding the war-damaged nations, not to mention normal development activities. "We are having to start all the services again," says Sarojini Vittachi, UNICEF's chief for the Middle East and North African section. "Suddenly there is a lot of rehabilitation to be done." She predicted that for the next year UNICEF's work in Iraq will be strictly emergency relief.

Philippe Boullé, director of the New York office of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), said the refugee problem "arose so quickly and with such force that there was a great fear that we would not get money to use in Iraq". And that is what is happening: the war so derailed the normal United Nations development work that all efforts must now switch to emergency relief.

## Humanitarian programme

Aga Khan's full title alone reflects the vast, interlocking problems the United Nations must face. He is the executive delegate of the United Nations secretary-general for the United Nations Inter-Agency Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and the Iraq/Iran and Iraq/Turkey Border Areas.

There are two separate operations under his authority: one inside Iraq and one on the borders. UNHCR is the lead agency on the border areas co-ordinating the aid to refugees now camped at Iraq's frontiers with Turkey and Iran. Inside Iraq, Aga Khan is represented by a co-ordinator, Bernt Bernander of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). His job is to work with United Nations agencies, independent relief organizations and the Iraqi government. UNDRO is the overall co-ordinating body within Iraq while different agencies have specific responsibilities: camp management by UNHCR; health, water, sanitation and nutrition by WHO and UNICEF; procurement and transport of food by WFP; transport of people by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), an NGO specializing in dealing with migration problems; and transport of relief supplies by UNHCR and WFP. Also, on the basis of the agreement signed by Aga Khan and Iraqi foreign minister Ahmed Hussein on 18 April, the United Nations has started to take over the humanitarian centres for displaced Kurds established by Western governments in northern Iraq.

Independent relief agencies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, *Médecins sans frontières*, Oxfam, CARE and Catholic Relief are also on the ground working separately and in co-operation with the United Nations plan. Fred Isler, ICRC deputy head of delegation to the United Nations, said the Committee "has gotten the green light to operate inside Iraq wherever we want so we are spreading out as much as possible".

Water—its absence and its pollution—is at the heart of much of the relief work. UNICEF warns that the warm weather is already causing epidemics of typhoid, cholera and meningitis that could kill tens of thousands of Iraqis. Fortunately, Vittachi said that cleaning up the Baghdad water supply is already showing progress.

Before the war and sanctions, Iraq imported a majority of its food. Now there are areas where no food is available. Earlier United Nations reports warned that should the June harvest fail, or be far below average, as is very likely barring a rapid change in the situation, widespread starvation conditions will become a real possibility.

While WFP got all 31,000 tons of foodstuffs it asked for in March, "it has gone way beyond 735,000 people [in Iraq] we initially planned to feed", said Mahaman Balla of WFP. So instead of lasting 100 days, it was used up in just 30 days, by the beginning of May. Another 71,000 tons was pledged at the end of April for 2.2 million people in Iraq, Turkey and Iran, the distribution of which Balla said is under way and should last until June when the harvest comes in. In addition, Balla said the "logistics are problematic". Since most roads were damaged in the bombings, foodstuffs have to be air-lifted, which usually means dropping the material out of helicopters—one of the least efficient ways to get supplies to the people most in need.

## Environmental war

This was the first war in which the destruction of the environment figured so prominently as a tool of warfare as highlighted by the Gulf oil spill, setting fire to over 500 oil wells and the destruction of oil refineries in Kuwait and the chemical plants in Iraq.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is collaborating in the assessment of the war's impact on the region's fragile ecosystem. Both UNEP and WHO report that the destruction of sanitation facilities has meant the influx of solid and chemical wastes into land, rivers and sea, causing untold ecological damage and posing health hazards. *Continued on page 20*

United Nations/John Isaac

***Kurdish refugees flee*** *along a desolate highway in northern Iraq last April.*

United Nations/John Isaac

***United Nations urban*** *infrastructure consultant Kamal Mohamed Abou-Lamda inspects a building damaged by the Iraqi occupation forces in Kuwait City.*

Indonesia

# In pursuit of *serai wangi*, *pasak bumi* and *terong pipit* of Borneo

By Stephen Carr

*One of the great fears about the destruction of tropical rainforests, and deforestation in general, is that all manner of plant and tree life that can be used medicinally to treat illness may be lost to humankind. Many local remedies that could be of value in treating patients around the world are still unknown in the West. Stephen Carr recently accompanied an expedition to Borneo, officially known as Kalimantan, to collect medicinal samples. His fascinating account reveals the riches which crowd the rainforest—awaiting development or possible extinction.*

The huge South-East Asian island of Kalimantan has few roads. The main thoroughfares are rivers. If you want to go to the island's interior you take a canoe.

The flashy boom town of Balikpapan, its modern trappings bought with oil and gas revenues, is atypical of this Indonesian part of Kalimantan. But two hours up the highway you find sleepy towns like Tenggarong, where the best hotel costs $9 and the receptionist says "a lot of tourists come here."

"Every day?" "No, but every week."

Two days' longboat and Jeep travel north of here reach small trading settlements like Pengadan, which had its last Western visitor three years ago.

I was part of an expedition, headed by research scientists Paul Rankin and Deborah Shaw, which aimed to gather local medicinal plants for analysis. The expedition had been commissioned to get the samples for Kew Gardens in Britain and for drug research by the American laboratories of SmithKline Beecham.

"Fifty per cent of Western prescription drugs have been made from substances discovered in tropical rainforest," Rankin told me. "So while there are still some trees standing, it is in these companies' interest to research what is here."

Our expedition consisted of five Europeans, three native guides, a cook, and a Javanese woman organizer.

Our first stop was Kutai National Park. There we were shown a reedlike lemongrass called *serai wangi*. This had a strong lemon smell when cut and contained an oil which, when pounded out of the root and stem, can be distilled. It is then used by the local people, we were told, as a mosquito repellent, an ingredient to make soap, or as an oil for massage. People also used the leaves of *tapak dara*, an 18-inch high plant with small white flowers, similar to *nicotiana*, that could be boiled and drunk for alleviating stomach cancer. It was said infusions of this plant made one live longer.

Kutai is the home of a colony of orangutans which have been rehabilitated back into the wild after various forms of captivity. The lure of biscuits brought two adults and a young one into our arms, smothering us with hairy embraces.

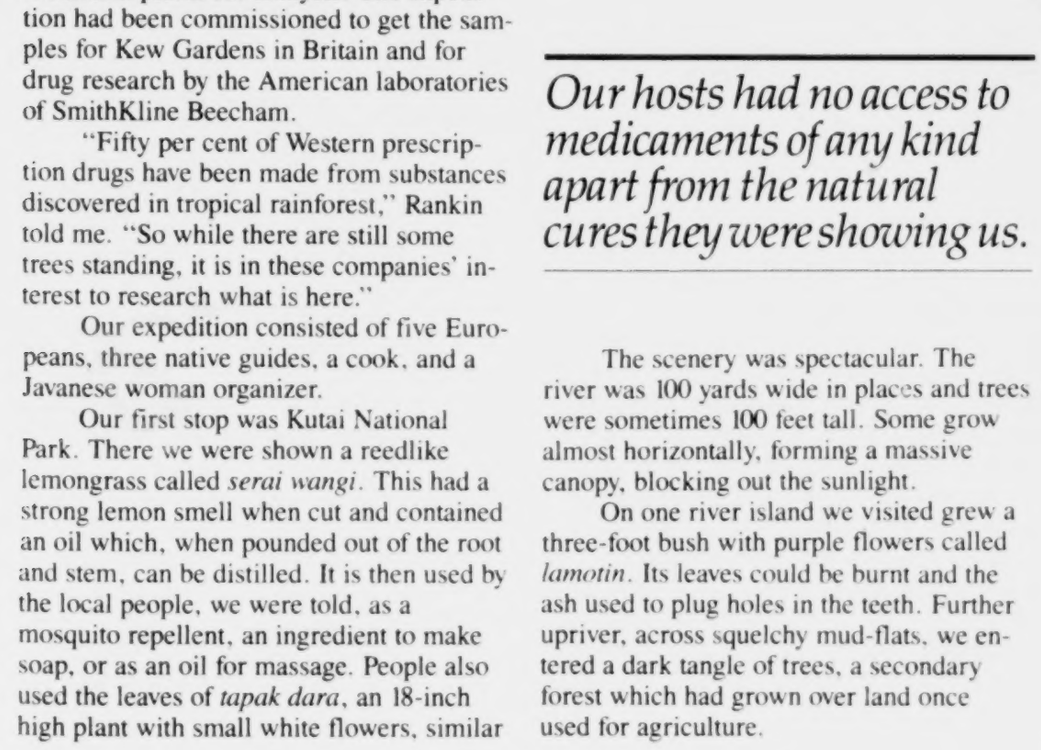
At Pengadan, near a cave populated by giant spiders and screeching bats, we found a type of ginseng root called *pasak bumi*. It is sold all over Kalimantan as a natural remedy for malaria. The leaves of another bush, *kerihau*, with white fruit, could be crushed and the juice drunk, also to counteract malaria.

We headed inland. Our aim was to meet the nomadic Punan, acknowledged by other Kalimantan peoples to be the island's true experts on forest produce in all varieties.

*Our hosts had no access to medicaments of any kind apart from the natural cures they were showing us.*

The scenery was spectacular. The river was 100 yards wide in places and trees were sometimes 100 feet tall. Some grow almost horizontally, forming a massive canopy, blocking out the sunlight.

On one river island we visited grew a three-foot bush with purple flowers called *lamotin*. Its leaves could be burnt and the ash used to plug holes in the teeth. Further upriver, across squelchy mud-flats, we entered a dark tangle of trees, a secondary forest which had grown over land once used for agriculture.



Stephen Carr

***Villagers at Miau Bani**, deep in Dayak territory, rarely saw people from the outside world.*

Stephen Carr

***One of the Dayak** guides who shared his knowledge of plants in the forest.*

We tramped through the forest single file, babies slung on the backs of the Punan women and a small daughter tagging along. Two chirruping young birds in their nest, put into one woman's rattan pack, seemed to be the equivalent of toys, taken out at intervals and fed on seeds.

A tall tree, *yago*, with large leaves and no flowers, could be ground up whole and the oil extracted for massage. The bark could also be burnt to keep away insects. It was more effective than commercially produced mosquito coils, our guides told us.

Some plants had purposes specific to the hazards of the forest. One creeper, *camlung*, with three-foot leaves, could be burnt and the ash used to treat the intense skin irritation and pain caused by contact with a yellow and black hairy caterpillar. Another unnamed bark could be rubbed on the skin as relief from bee stings.

Our hosts had no access to medicaments of any kind apart from the natural cures they were showing us. But they had a plant remedy for any sickness or accident likely to befall them.

A six-foot plant, *jilieng*, with red grape-like clusters of fruit, had a root which could be boiled as a cure for tuberculosis. It was a potent medicine, the Punans said, and needed only one or two doses.

A red-fruited plant, which our Indonesian guides called *terong pipit*, had a root which could be infused to relieve beriberi and hepatitis. It was a slow-acting treatment, they said, and needed frequent doses.

A tree bark the Indonesians called *benaung* could be pounded until soft and taken as a pick-me-up by the old and tired. A final, curious treatment for stomach-ache the Punans showed us was *siksok*, a small plant whose pinkish roots could be ground to a paste, made into a plug and inserted into the navel.

At a settlement for Dayaks at Rantau Panjang, we stayed with the chief. He told us that half the population had malaria. Ten per cent died from it. From July to August, when the forest was full of fruit, there was also a high incidence of cholera. There was no natural remedy for the disease, but for malaria the young leaves of *sarakung*, a small bushy plant smelling of mint, were infused.

Incongruously, the chief's home, decorated with his ceremonial hornbill cap, also Duran Duran (a United States pop music group), Jesus and the Virgin Mary. Nearby, on the front of a Pentecostalist mission church, was a cross painted in red, flanked by portraits of the Muslim president and vice-president of Indonesia.

Other plants were identified which could be used for cuts, skin irritations, fevers, bee stings, monkey bites and tooth bacteria.

A cure for rheumatism was *tubadaun-telinga*, a small spreading plant cooked on a fire, packed with salt and put over painful joints.

The lung plant, with a reddish stem smelling strongly of rhubarb, had three uses. Its root was dried and blown into all the body orifices to stop fits and rigid spasms. It was also effective for fever and, we were told, to protect babies from ghosts.

All the samples were labelled, dried and some preserved in alcohol to prevent mould. They have been shipped to Britain and the United States. Analysing them for useful compounds will take months, and drugs from the samples may be years away yet. ■

GEMINI

Indonesia

# Movie import quotas provoke protests

Jakarta—Hollywood-made films may have started to dominate the movie screens in most parts of Asia and Africa, but not in Indonesia, where movies from the United States were virtually absent throughout the 1960s and then barely allowed under a quota system since the 1970s.

But an attempt by the Movie Producers and Exporters Association of America (MPEAA) to open a distribution agency in Indonesia recently provoked accusations from government officials and Indonesian film producers and distributors of United States meddling in internal affairs and sovereignty.

The problem, according to Indonesian film industry leaders, is that United States motion picture producers ask more than is reasonable under existing trade agreements. In Indonesia, they wanted the government to reduce the film import quota, allow commercials on television and abolish rules that oblige movie theatres to screen local films.

American film exporters also demanded that Indonesia cut film import duties, allow them to operate their own theatres and a distribution centre to sell American films.

"Indonesia is not a United States colony," said house commission chairman Imron Rosyadi. "Every citizen should feel offended by the proposed conditions."

The Museum of Modern Art

***Even an immensely*** *popular Malaysian film like* Sangkuriang *(scene pictured above) may not be a match for the imported competition from Hollywood.*

Indonesia has restricted imports of motion pictures because of the strategic importance of the local film industry for developing cultural values, according to information minister Harmoko. The government views films as strategic commodities because of their effect on the nation's way of life, he said after meeting with the American trade representative.

The issue was raised after the MPEAA complained to the United States congress about what it saw as unfair Indonesian trade practices. MPEAA demanded trade retaliation unless its members are allowed to export and freely distribute their films in Indonesia.

"We will not tolerate foreign interference, particularly in the film industry," Harmoko said. The American film exporters should abide by local regulations if they want to do business in Indonesia, he argued, adding that the import quota system would continue.

Indonesia sets quotas for film imports to protect the domestic film industry from competition. Local output is currently 101 films a year. Indonesia imports 170 film titles yearly—80 from the United States and Europe, 45 Chinese-language films from Hong Kong, and 45 from other Asian countries.

Local film producers have urged the house to reject the MPEAA request. "It would disrupt Indonesia's aim of producing national movies," said Turino Djunasdi, chairman of the Indonesia Movie Producers' Association. Movies are for public enlightenment, not merely for commercial venture, he added.

John Tjasmadi, secretary-general of the Indonesian Cinema Owners Association, said Indonesia was the only country in Asia and Africa to have resisted the MPEAA attempt. "We must resist the MPEAA," he explained, "and protect our people from the excessive effect of foreign cultures." ■

IPS

# The Jamaican patois debate

By Cedric Lindo

A topic far removed from pressing local economic problems and world events has lately been absorbing Jamaicans—the question of the use of vernacular speech, or patois as it is popularly known. Should the local dialect be encouraged or should people be taught to use only correct English?

Since independence came to the Caribbean in the 1960s, there has been a movement to let the people discover the roots of their ancestors and to foster interest in their background. The daily speech of the average Jamaican plays a big part in this assertion of identity.

Although there are several variations, Jamaican patois is really very close to English unlike Haitian creole, for example, which is a totally different language from French. Patois is not formally taught in the school system.

In Jamaica, politicians increasingly appeal to people by speaking in the easily understood vernacular. Young Jamaicans have become indoctrinated into that language, learned at mother's knee.

But problems have arisen with the widespread use of patois. For years now, some students of the University of the West Indies, at the end of their three-year courses, have not been able to write in English, the language in which their examinations are set. To remedy this, the university instituted a compulsory course in the use of English which all students had to pass at the end of their first year. If they did not pass, they could not get a degree.

The number failing the exam at first attempt was so high that university authorities and the public were astonished and distressed. This situation provoked a discussion in the pages of the country's main newspaper *The Daily Gleaner*, which has drawn the attention of almost the entire country.

The vernacular patois or patwah, as the nationalists call it, has been called "the nation's language" by the distinguished poet Edward Kamau Braithwaite. But conservatives, especially employers, say it should be suppressed. They deplore the fact that some people applying for jobs cannot communicate in English.

Young people seem destined to have a hard time communicating with the outside world at a time when local data processing operations, for example, are expected to earn millions of dollars from overseas contractors.

Other supporters of correct English refer to its beauty, and one "Down with patois" voice was that of novelist John Hearne, who lectures at the university's Caribbean Communications Centre. He called the vernacular "a barefoot language"—only to confess in a letter to *The Gleaner* a week or two later that he had his students put into patois a piece from Edmund Wilson's *To the Finland Station*.

To Hearne's great surprise the entire class produced creditable and understandable "translations". As a result, he announced in the newspaper that he had reversed his position on the matter.

In the search for a viable solution, the university's department of education argued that at basic and primary schools, instruction should be given in the vernacular and only at a later stage should correct English be used. The conservatives came back with statistics to show that in the Republic of Ireland, where the schools had been compelled to teach Gaelic, Irish students lagged behind their English contemporaries by several months.

The problem is, of course, not confined to the use of English in Jamaica. Many other countries have ongoing debates about vernacular languages and use of dialects. For example, after Desi Bouterse came to power in the former Dutch colony of Suriname in South America, he paid an official visit to the former British colony of Grenada, a small Caribbean country. He took his foreign minister with him as interpreter—not to translate from Dutch, Suriname's official language, but from Sranan into English. Sranan is the vernacular speech of most of the population in Suriname. ■

GEMINI

*Cedric Lindo is a journalist writing regularly for the* Sunday Gleaner *in Jamaica.*

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Kenya

# Computers make classroom debut

By Odhiambo Orlale

Few people know what to make of the machines. Most of the students are mesmerized, seeing them as "those things we see in magazines and on television screens". But at least one person feels quite comfortable around computers.

Hellen Abwavo heads the computer department at Ofafa Jericho Secondary School in Nairobi. After two years of learning computer information systems at the Kenya Technical Teachers College, she was assigned to the position at the secondary school through Computers in Education Project in Kenya (CEPAK).

Abwavo is in fact only a small part of the computer revolution in Kenya's secondary schools. The Aga Khan Academy, a private school in Nairobi, embraced the new technology in 1983 when it received five computers and the necessary hardware and software.

After realizing the importance and efficiency of the computer project, CEPAK, with funds from the Aga Khan Foundation and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, set up a second phase, introducing computers to four public secondary schools in Nairobi, including Moi High School Kabarak, State House Girls, and Coast Girls Secondary School.

To the teachers in these schools, the projects have been a success. "My students enjoy the computer classes because of the marvel of using this innovation for the first time," Abwavo says. "I have also noticed that their concentration on their studies has improved by almost 100 per cent." Few teachers would argue with these results.

At Ofafa Jericho, the students and teachers make do with five computers. These machines must be shared among 540 students, with 45 students in each class. This leaves the ratio of computers to students in a classroom at 9:1, whereas in the entire school it is 108:1. Computer time is scarce but invaluable.

To alleviate this problem, Abwavo has organized a school schedule allowing each of the 12 classes in the school to have at least one period a week to work with the computers. She thinks this is enough at least to give her students a grasp of computers.

"What we are teaching our students is not computer science as such, but how to use the machine as a learning tool," the department head says.

Indeed, this emphasis on the functional application of computer technology has been the aim of CEPAK. For computers to be a successful teaching tool, it was decided that teachers should learn actual skills, including the organization of financial accounts, the production of teacher-learning materials, and the ability to show information, such as math and the physical sciences, that would be difficult to demonstrate in the classroom.

Before the introduction of the computers in 1986, Ofafa Jericho had only a chalkboard as a teaching aid. "We now have a teaching aid that can interact with the students," Abwavo says. "Because it can make them discover new things, it has the potential for developing their interests and talents."

IDRC

***Both students and*** *teachers are learning how to put computers to practical use.*

The response of the Ofafa Jericho students to the computers is initial hesitation and then acceptance. One student at the school says "computers are very frustrating before you know how to use them, but they can be lots of fun later." One teacher at the Coast Girls High School says "our computer room is always in use until 6.45 p.m. and on Saturdays. I even have to send away some students because the room becomes overcrowded."

Overcrowding and lack of computer time are problems for the secondary schools. Abwavo cites the prohibitive costs of computers as the major stumbling block to the future success of the project.

As the director of CEPAK, Salim Versi co-ordinates the computer projects in the various schools. He says the computers, which are subject to high import customs duties as luxury items, should be exempted from import duty to allow more schools the opportunity to purchase them.

"To start with, a school will have to spend up to Sh600,000 to get five computers and the necessary software and hardware," Versi says. "This is a very big part of most schools' budgets—they need the money for other administrative needs as well."

Versi sees other problems with the computer project succeeding in the Kenyan school system. Computers, he says, were found to be a source of anxiety among most school staff—almost a "computerphobia". To deal with this, the project must have a core of knowledgeable trainers and educators at both the central and school levels.

There must also be a greater understanding of the frustration of novices and the likelihood that some might drop out of the computer course, Versi says. The aim must be to assist teachers and students to become users of the technology with as little pain as possible and in the shortest possible time. ■

IDRC Reports

*Odhiambo Orlale is a journalist based in Nairobi.*

# Displaced students going without education in Sudan

By Neimat M. Bilal

Khartoum—Philip Loca, 15, symbolizes those of Sudan's young generation whose education and livelihood are in danger of being lost to the disruption caused by this country's brutal civil war.

Like many other children who have fled the south and settled in the capital, the heart of the north, Loca has stopped going to school, unable to overcome the more pressing problems of hunger and clothing.

After losing both his parents in the ongoing fighting and famine, Loca moved from the south, where he attended school, to the capital where he has settled with relatives in a depressed area of the city.

The boy's chances of continuing his education are very slim. He says his guardian is too poor to provide regular food even for his own immediate large family, much less another household member. "Sometimes I go without food. As a result, I have stopped attending classes," he explained.

Another young friend says he has no uniform. "I can't go to school with this rag," he complained. "Whenever I put it on, other students laugh at me."

Sudan's bitter civil war has destroyed most of the south's limited infrastructure, forcing half of the region's seven million population to flee the area.

The education system was one of the first casualties. About 1,170 out of 1,400 schools in the south have been closed, according to an official government report published here recently.

United Nations Milton Grant

***The ongoing civil*** *war in Sudan has crippled school and university education throughout the south and in the north as well.*

Aware of the impact that a generation of illiterates will have on Sudanese society, delegates to the recent government-sponsored peace conference held in Khartoum recommended that "displaced students should be provided with educational services by utilizing available resources and, if necessary, schools should be established within camps of displaced."

Khartoum, with a population of about six million, hosts two million displaced persons, many of whom live in some 30 camps which have cropped up in the shanty towns on the city's outskirts.

Most are women, children and elderly people who are too weak to travel the long distance to Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda where there are more opportunities. They have now discovered that their children cannot go to school in Khartoum because of the limited facilities offered by the government and a variety of non-governmental organizations.

Parents also find that displaced children in secondary schools, regarded as well-off compared to the primary and intermediate students because of the assistance they get from the government, have many problems that conspire to prevent the schooling of southerners.

Despite pledges by the government, the education ministry has not raised the uniform allowance of $16 per year to which each secondary student is entitled. Students complain that sometimes they do not receive the money, which is not enough to buy even a pair of trousers.

The ministry has also been unable to provide the free board and lodging promised to secondary students. To alleviate the situation, the ministry provides about $25 a month to feed each student. "This money, which is sometimes delayed, is not enough for one month," explains Paul Malok, a secondary student. "Whenever payment is made, some names are deliberately excluded from the list for unknown reasons."

Students have other problems as well. Due to non-payment, landlords have closed most displaced schools in Khartoum, insisting that they would not reopen unless the arrears were all paid by the ministry of education.

The displaced also face language problems. Last year nearly 2,000 students were dismissed because of poor academic performance, mainly because they could not cope with Arabic.

The federal government in Khartoum is enforcing a new law instituting Arabic as the medium of instruction in all Sudanese schools, despite the fact that English is the official language of the south. Many students have found it difficult to switch to a new language.

The war between rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the government has also affected Juba University, southern Sudan's only higher institution of learning.

The university's transfer from the Christian African south to Khartoum in the Muslim Arab north has angered many southerners.

Although it was transferred by the ministry for "security reasons", most southerners deplore the move, saying that it amounted to "the further withdrawal of the federal government from the south".

Some also say that the move was a calculated policy to deprive their children of the opportunity to join the university since it would now be controlled by the federal government in Khartoum. ■

IPS

# Guaranteeing collective security

*Continued from page 1*

accept it, which they are most unlikely to do. The United Nations, therefore, must be brought to maturity to take that role.

Within the United Nations, the end of the Cold War has had its most immediate effect on the work of the Security Council. The Council has been able to make notable progress in peace-making and peace-keeping tasks which had languished during the Cold War—for example, in Namibia, Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq war, Cambodia, Central America and Western Sahara. Most recently, the United Nations has made an unprecedentedly firm and united response to the Iraq-Kuwait crisis, putting to the test the concept of collective security itself.

Although the United Nations possesses significant machinery designed to promote economic and social development, it still has not provided a system for peace and security except as a last resort, or safety net. Sometimes it was able to mount a peace-keeping force as a kind of sheriff's posse when things had already got out of hand.

The question is whether in the new international climate, the nations of the world are capable of the effort—and expenditure—to create and maintain a system based on vigilance, consensus, common interest, collective action and international law. Ideally such a system would keep a permanent watch on international peace and security around the world, pre-empt or prevent conflict, mediate disputes, assure the protection of the weak and deal authoritatively with aggressors or would-be aggressors.

This is a very large order. It requires, first of all, a return to the provisions of the United Nations Charter that were the distillation of the terrible lessons of the Second World War and of the events that led up to it, including the failure of the League of Nations.

But the creation of a reliable system for international peace and security involves more than reacting, however forcefully, to a crisis that has already happened. It requires both the creation of conditions in which peace can be maintained, and the capacity to anticipate and to prevent breaches of the peace.

One of the consequences of World War II was the general conviction, reflected in the United Nations Charter, that disarmament was essential for a peaceful and stable world. Perhaps the Gulf war will serve to remind us of the need for arms control and the dangers of the proliferation and the flow of arms, especially to the more volatile regions of the world. The war also obviously points to the urgent need for far better considered, long-term, world-wide energy strategies, including the future of oil.

The Gulf crisis is a reminder, moreover, that throughout the world there are borders, largely a legacy of the age of colonialism, that are still controversial and may well be major sources of conflict in the years to come. This is particularly true in regions where the borders do not correspond to ethnic, economic or social realities. The nature of this widespread problem must be an important element in our thinking about ways to strengthen and develop mechanisms for anticipating and mediating future threats to peace.

The persistent gulf between rich and poor reminds us that widespread poverty, especially when juxtaposed with enormous wealth, is a breeding ground for extremist movements, instability and conflict. Rapidly increasing migrations of people from poorer to richer economies are now a world-wide phenomenon. The political, social and economic implications of these migrations are vast and have contributed a poignant element to the Gulf crisis. The disparity between rich and poor, along with the pressures of an ever expanding population, will remain potentially our biggest and most explosive long-term problem. With the collapse of Marxism there is a rush of nations to join the industrialized, so-called "North". These include the Soviet Union, the countries of Eastern Europe and, to some degree, China. In present circumstances, this can only mean a widening of the gulf between rich and poor. The residual "South", holding more of the world's population and with little immediate hope of overcoming poverty and despair, will command less and less attention. The new buzzword, "marginalization", is unfortunately all too appropriate to these poorer parts of the world. The concentration of international attention on the Gulf crisis has tended to heighten this feeling of being marginal in many regions of the world.

If we are to talk seriously of a "new world order", the world's disputes and conflicts should all be a concern of the United Nations, daunting as the prospect may seem. In the current crisis in the Gulf, we have seen the tremendous effort and resources required to mount a convincing response to just one situation of conflict, admittedly a particularly flagrant act of aggression in a particularly sensitive part of the world.

*If we are to talk about a new world order, the world's disputes and conflicts should all be a concern of the United Nations.*

A credible international security system, or "new world order", will have to respond with appropriate collective action, through either regional or global organizations, to the vast range of disputes, threats to, or breaches of the peace, or even acts of aggression, which are likely to occur in the aftermath of the Cold War. It is no longer acceptable that international action is taken only when a situation threatens the interests of the most powerful nations. Indeed this is one of the main criticisms being made of the action in the Gulf. A system of international peace and security must be comprehensive and universal, and it must protect the interests of the weak as well as the strong. All nations should participate according to their means. Is this a dream, or is it practical and political common sense? ■

United Nations/John Isaac

***The United Nations** has still not provided a system for peace and security. Above, Iraqi POW's in Kuwait ponder their own security.*

*Brian Urquhart, formerly under-secretary-general of the United Nations, is a scholar in residence at the Ford Foundation. His books include* Hammarskjold, A Life in Peace and War, Decolonization and World Peace, *and, with Erskine Childers,* A World in Need of Leadership: Tomorrow's United Nations.

# The media, the environment: Making the connection

By David Lazarus

The question might seem a little superfluous to Westerners and to those in countries where the green message has become almost shrill, but to many journalists living in the developing world the question is vital: how do we effectively get the environmental message across to the general public?

There are a lot of international organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental, which would also like some answers.

At a recent seminar on environmental journalism organized by the Biomass Users Network in Harare, Zimbabwe, developing country journalists cited some of the obstacles to getting out the green message: editors are not interested in environmental news; people do not understand the issues or are not interested, especially in countries where they face the more pressing issues of survival; journalists lack training in tackling environmental issues; sometimes the government or business community would rather that the word not get out. The list is long.

Many developing country journalists already work under tremendous pressure and in such appalling conditions that it is a wonder that news, much less environmental news, gets out at all.

Even if reporters and interested media and NGOs can gather information on the environment, they face the dilemma of effective dissemination. Do

*Continued on page 19*

Bernard Nicolas

# Refugees flooding islands of affluence

By Franz Nuscheler

The South-North march of millions has become a reality and is likely to increase. Much of the worldwide migrant movements flow toward the "islands of affluence" in North America, Western Europe, the Persian Gulf and East Asia.

How can this disruptive movement of political and economic refugees be slowed? For some, the answer is to block the immigration into the Northern islands. Others see advantages to the influx. Unless problems in the South are addressed, the march is sure to continue.

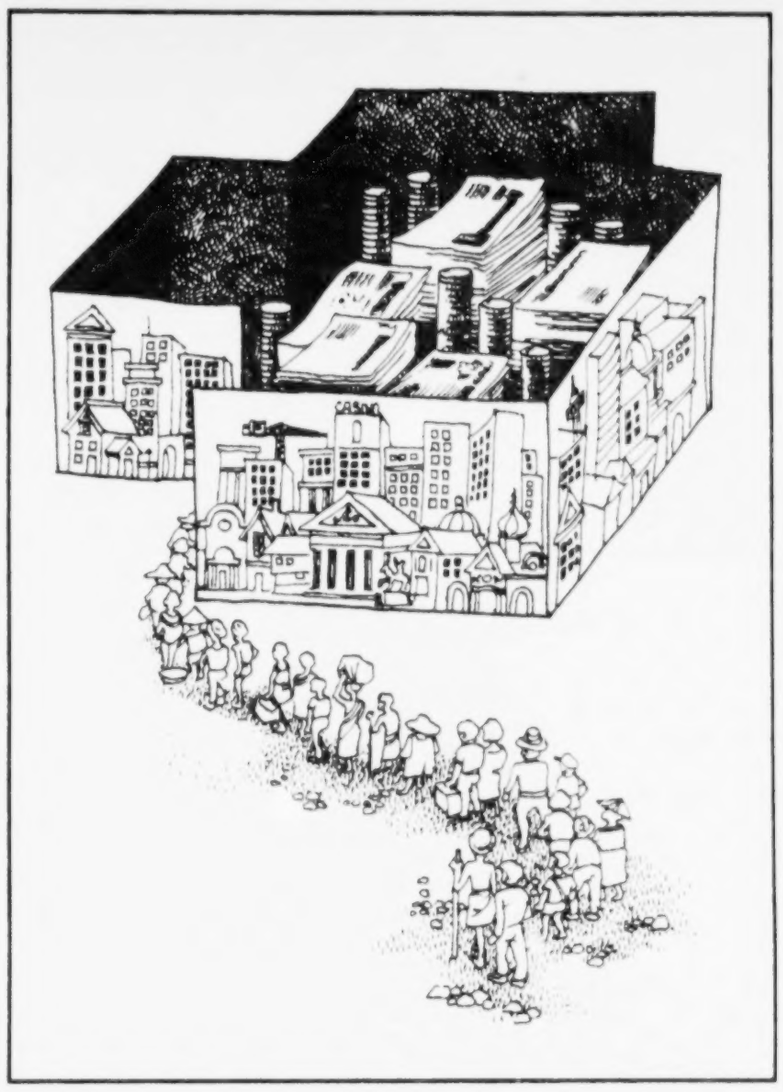
The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has 15 million refugees registered. The number of "internally displaced persons" is many times that number. The stream of migrants, who are called "economic refugees" or "illegal aliens" in political parlance, has also increased. The International Labour Organisation estimates that there are approximately 100 million legal and illegal immigrants and refugees.

*If affluent countries no longer want to take in strangers, they have to make a more concerted effort to eliminate the reasons for their flight.*

In Europe this influx from the South is pushing a wave of people northward, which some member states of the European Community are trying to ward off by means of an international law convention.

Like the refugee movement, economic migration is also a global movement. So far, only ripples have reached the North—a mere 5 per cent have reached Western Europe. Here the influx of people from Eastern and Southern Europe is greater than from the Third World, since stricter visa requirements are now blocking access even for political refugees.

Everywhere, push and pull factors as well as flight and economic migration are leading to mass movements that can no longer be distinguished conceptually from each other. As borders within "Fortress Europe" become more open, its common external walls become higher.



However, closing the frontiers by erecting new walls made of tighter asylum regulations and reduced legal rights for foreigners is no solution. The causes for the refugee movements must be eliminated. Its focus is mostly concentrated in war zones. The Third World has become the theatre of war of our times, and in the course of its frequent armed conflicts has become a "world of refugee camps".

The roots of these wars can be traced to the legacy of colonialism (such as arbitrary borders), integration crises caused by artificially created "nation states", power struggles for positions of wealth and influence or conflicts resulting from structural violence.

The East-West conflict contributed to the militarization of the Third World, the accumulation of weapons, and consequently the frequency of armed conflicts. In many ways the North (East and West) shares the responsibility for the wars and refugee situations in the South.

Natural and environmental catastrophes are turning into famines, which produce a growing stream of refugees fleeing from poverty and environmental disasters. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates that by the turn of the millenium one billion environmental refugees will have been displaced from their homelands because their basic means of survival have been destroyed.

Mass poverty, already intensified by the debt crisis and the structural adjustment policy of IMF, is propelling a growing stream of migrants in all directions. The structural causes of this South-North migration are rooted in the disparities between North and South and a most inequitable distribution of opportunities. Emigrants as a rule do not leave their homeland without a compelling reason.

If the islands of affluence in the world no longer want to take in strangers, they have to make a more concerted effort to eliminate the reasons for their flight. Their defensive reaction to the immigration of ethnic and cultural minorities is also counter-productive as to their self-interests. Demographers have determined that Western societies need immigrants to offset the effects of their aging populations and to preserve their wealth.

Immigration does not only mean a burden, but also an enrichment and vitalization for the host society. Experience shows that pluralism, including ethnic-cultural pluralism, has been a stimulating element.

However, the problem of the North-South gap and consequently the migration problem cannot be solved by immigration. If the North wants to stop the mass northward "march" of refugees fleeing from poverty or environmental disasters, it must improve living conditions in their countries of origin. Forgiving debt in a timely and socially acceptable fashion would be one of the means to accomplish this.

Yet this is not possible without an international burden-sharing process. In other words, the North must part with a portion of its wealth to reduce disparities between nations and regions, unless it wants to move its armies from the East-West frontier to the North-South border to turn back the refugees. The cost would be greater than a preventive linkage of potential refugee and development aid, coupled with an active peace policy (which would renounce the export of weapons, for instance).

The question is not whether we can, but whether we want to do this. In the long term, the islands of affluence cannot embed themselves in a Noah's Ark of the blessed. "One world for all" is not possible under conditions of "global *apartheid*". ■

*Franz Nuscheler is professor of international and comparative politics at the University of Dortmund and a member of the academic advisory board of the German ministry for economic co-operation. A version of this essay originally appeared in* Drittewelt Presse, *a publication of the German Society for the United Nations.*

# The media

*Continued from page 18*

they send out attractive, glossy material aimed at catching the reader's eye? Often this means material produced at high cost and a small print-run which might end up on a convenient shelf, or sent to those who are illiterate or can't read English, French or Spanish. Of course, when the material is useful and there is a demand, there is usually not enough to go around.

Similarly, the "multiplier effect" is unreliable, depending on the uncertain redissemination of news and information by individuals and organizations that bother to reproduce the material at their own expense so that it is used and reused.

All best laid communications plans and good intentions, in the final analysis, rest very much on the individual journalist or NGO to make them a success. For people to understand the issues, they must be adequately informed. Here is where NGOs can play a role in bridging the education gap, showing that much can be done with scarce resources.

Before money is spent on an environmental awareness programme, we communicators must consider more effective alternatives to the expensive book or exhaustive media pack. We might consider simple alternatives such as funding effective local information programmes.

Local media can be sensitized, ideally on a one-on-one basis. No editor, whether in Ulan Bator, Quito or Paris, can resist a good story. The environment is inherently a great story, affecting people and their well-being and development—concerns that are major preoccupations in many countries.

In this vein, an effective way to get through to the audience is to concentrate on the "human interest" angle in a story. People like reading about people and how they cope with problems. "Success" stories too can be an inspiration to many. When they are informed, people want to do something about it, to get involved, so good environmental features should have a "What You Can Do" element to them.

In countries where there are high rates of illiteracy, United Nations studies indicate that radio is the medium that is most effective and inexpensive. Traditional music, folklore, radio plays, theatre and mime all work well in reaching an unsophisticated audience such as rural villagers.

When we produce materials for redissemination, we can provide suggestions on how they can be utilized locally. An example of this is the manual produced by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with Girl Guides and Scouts organizations. At the end of every section on key environmental issues are suggestions on what they and their community can do to help improve the situation.

Organizations can hold seminars and workshops to acquaint journalists with the latest environmental information. Scientists are quite notorious for disagreeing with each other and find it difficult to explain complex theories in simple language. But when stories involve scientific information, scientists can be invaluable resources for journalists and NGOs.

Pick up any newspaper or magazine or tune into a radio or TV station from a developed country and you will find some green issue being debated or reported. You might say that this would be the ideal situation.

The danger here, as communicators have slowly learned, is that the audience might tune out. Overkill sometimes alienates an audience, which becomes exasperated by the incessant message of "gloom and doom".

In writing the stories, developing country journalists sometimes risk losing credibility or relevance if they simply repeat the latest green discovery or sensation in the West. One way out of this problem would be to localize the concern to ensure that the green message touches the lives of the local people.

Censorship, perhaps, is the hardest nut to crack. But increasingly governments are keen to listen as the environment comes to the top of the agenda. Almost all of the national environmental plans put forward to UNEP these days have a public awareness education and training component, suggesting that governments realize that the media can play a role in helping them achieve their aims.

The journalists at the seminar in Harare resolved to start an environmental newsletter among themselves, establish a small resource centre and organize a Pan African journalists' seminar so that they can keep track of what their colleagues are doing. Being well-informed is the first step towards communicating these urgent problems to a broader audience. People are willing to listen. They just need the right information. ■

*David Lazarus is co-ordinator, Programme Communications, UNEP. The views expressed are entirely the author's and do not reflect UNEP's official view.*

# Women must seek rights

Continued from page 3

middle of this year, will outlaw "any distinction, exclusion or preference on the basis of sex, marital status, family responsibility or sexual preference".

The draft—one of the most specific on women's rights in their work place in Africa—proposes that all female employees who have worked with an enterprise for more than a year be entitled to three months' maternity leave, without jeopardizing their job or promotion opportunities when they return.

When the draft becomes law, it will also revoke a clause that prohibited women from working in the mines—

the mainstay of the Namibian economy. It will also, for the first time, recognize domestics as workers and set up a department to monitor their working conditions.

In yet another significant development, the draft proposes to institute an employment equity commission to ensure that women and other disadvantaged groups are given fair employment opportunity. Employers will be expected to fix quotas which will be monitored by the commission.

Last year, at independence, some women criticized president Sam Nujoma for not creating a women's ministry. He has since set up a department directly under the presidency. According to director Kapena, a major objective of this department is to push for gender sensitive planning at the government's ministerial level.

Other government initiatives to benefit women taken over the last year include measures to increase the productivity of small-scale farmers, the introduction of free and compulsory education until the age of 16, adult literacy programmes, a new thrust towards primary health care and special incentives to private employers employing women.

But despite all this, much of the initiative still lies in the hands of Namibian women. As prominent Namibian lawyer Bience Gawanas remarks, "the constitution is still only a skeleton."

For example, women need to fight for the removal of "marital powers" that give men legal rights over them. The conflict between traditional and "modern" laws has been relegated to a commission.

"Affirmative action will only become a reality if women push for it. It is up to us to campaign and make this an issue, because the government has its own priorities, and unless we press ours, I doubt that anything will change," notes Gawanas.

Similarly, given the huge racial and gender disparities of the past, the government has made it clear that it cannot meet all socio-economic demands at once. Many women, therefore, will have to continue earning a living in the "informal sector" of the economy.

Traditions, a low sense of self-esteem and routine practical problems afflict most women at a personal level. There is also little shared vision. As Gawanas explains: "During the independence struggle, we focused on how to achieve independence. We, as women, never really thought about or planned for the next struggle." Indicating the enormity of the progress yet to be made, Abrahams says "the concept of women's rights is a foreign one. Most women are not even aware that they have a right to have rights."

Clearly, the development work at the grassroots level and the broader changes under way at the superstructural levels of society must—and in Namibia have the potential to—dovetail, bringing about better lives for all Namibians and the promise that this country can flourish as it should. ■

*Colleen Lowe Morna is a journalist based in Zimbabwe and a regional co-ordinator for Women's Feature Service in New Delhi.*

# Empowering women

Continued from page 3

We increasingly rely on such methods to devise our project components for the betterment of poor rural women and to measure their impact. In 1984, an average of 50 per cent of IFAD's projects included specific components concerning the promotion of rural women. In recent years, the percentage has exceeded 90 per cent.

However, there are some weak links and areas we need to strengthen. We need more women collaborators at the national level to assist in project design and implementation. Greater attention must be given to testing by women, and acquainting them with crop and livestock research.

To achieve success in these initiatives, the Fund must work closely with bodies and agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations. Our joint collaboration will aim at strengthening the advocacy role of national development machineries in support of poor rural women. But we must also ensure that funding to the more politically visible women in development machinery does not offer an excuse for planners to buy their way out of field programmes which benefit the most humble rural women without political leverage.

In this regard, poor rural women themselves have a key role to play. Their voices must be heard and remembered as we plan the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development and the United Nations Conference on Nutrition. Our strategies as part of the United Nations family must show how we can reconcile helping the most vulnerable women develop their productive potential, reducing malnutrition in their households and preserving their fragile environment. Only through such strategies can we break the vicious circle of poverty-environmental degradation-further poverty. ■

*Idriss Jazairy, of Algeria, is president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.*

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# Picking up the pieces

Continued from page 14

UNEP also continues to monitor the Gulf oil slick which, while not as large as earlier thought, is still damaging harbors, desalination plants and coastal ecosystems despite the use of booms to stop the spread. The health effect of black rain from burning oil wells is also pervasive.

Down-river and up-wind from Iraq, Kuwait is also rebuilding from the war. Because Kuwait is smaller and more prosperous than Iraq, the United Nations and independent relief agencies are less involved there. In April, WHO implemented a three-month emergency health plan to confront Kuwait's dual challenge: rehabilitating the health care system and dealing with the daunting threats posed by air, water and sea pollution, as well as by the widespread presence in the country of land-mines and other explosives.

The WHO plan includes rehabilitation of the health care infrastructure, repair of medical equipment and the emergency posting of 680 nurses, restoration of environmental control systems, provisions for technical support, drugs and other supplies to cope with disease prevention and control, and new vehicles for ambulance services and other mobile emergency units.

Before there were refugees there was the question of returnees, the citizens of third countries forced out of Kuwait or Iraq because of the Iraqi invasion in August. These people—mostly Bangladeshis, Egyptians, Jordanians, Yemenis, Sri Lankans, Indians, Filipinos and Palestinians—were working in the two countries and were forced to leave.

Besides acting as resident co-ordinators of relief work throughout the region, representatives of UNDP are helping in the specific task of repatriating the evacuees. According to Mohamed A. Nour, assistant administrator and regional director for the Regional Bureau for Arab States and Europe, the agency not only helped return these people to their homelands but will also continue to help "open avenues to return them to the mainstream of their society" after years abroad. He added, "The problem of the returnees may take three to five years."

This long-term work of UNDP should be the norm in a country like Iraq. But now, with many development projects disrupted, just about everything is on an emergency footing, and probably will be for at least a year. UNICEF's executive director, James T. Grant, summed up the bleak prospects saying, "It seems clear that the Middle East and North African region will be a tense and poorer one in the new decade, its countries hard put to retain past levels of child protection." The stark reality remains that what was destroyed in the 100-hour war will take years to rebuild, with a loss of life greater than from the war itself. ■

*Jim Wurst is a journalist specializing in United Nations affairs.*

# NGOs enjoy unprecedented role in Earth Summit — but what will they do with it?

A wide door of access to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) Preparatory Committee has been opened to NGOs. The question is how many NGOs will use this access to make strategic and substantive contributions to the negotiations (see related stories on page 9).

Over 180 NGOs were represented at the second session of the UNCED PrepCom in Geneva, from 26 March-12 April. Access to the often obscure process of the PrepCom has in the past been limited to NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Now, thanks to pressure primarily from several NGOs and governments, and support from Tommy Koh, chairman of UNCED, and Maurice Strong, its secretary-general, many "non-international" NGOs which have "special expertise" in the agenda issues can participate by attending meetings, presenting documents and speaking to the plenary. They remain, however, excluded from closed, informal meetings during the PrepComs.

Approximately 30 representatives came from NGOs in Asia, Africa and Latin America, many to attend a meeting on "Poverty and the Environment" hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) during the first week of the PrepCom. Their presence helped to give a more truly global face to the NGO community at United Nations deliberations where Northern NGOs have dominated by their numbers.

A growing number of countries, Australia, Canada, France, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States and the USSR among them, included NGOs in their delegations, indicating a growing government seriousness in NGO participation in decision-making.

The upcoming August PrepCom may also include a few Southern governments with NGOs in their delegation. Angela Harkavy of the South American Conference on Religion and Ecology indicated, "Brazilian delegates wanted to learn more about the experience of including NGOs both from governments and from us, the NGOs. It's a good sign."

NGOs also made use of their access by presenting statements and proposals on issues of sustainable agriculture, forests, poverty, women, technology transfer, population, the rights of indigenous people and energy.

Eileen Nic, whose organization, the International Organization of Consumers Union (IOCU), had distributed a working paper on sustainable agriculture to delegates in working group I, commented that, "NGOs are spending a great deal of time with government delegates on our sustainable agriculture proposal, with an unusual level of co-operation between Northern and Southern NGOs as they work their own delegations."

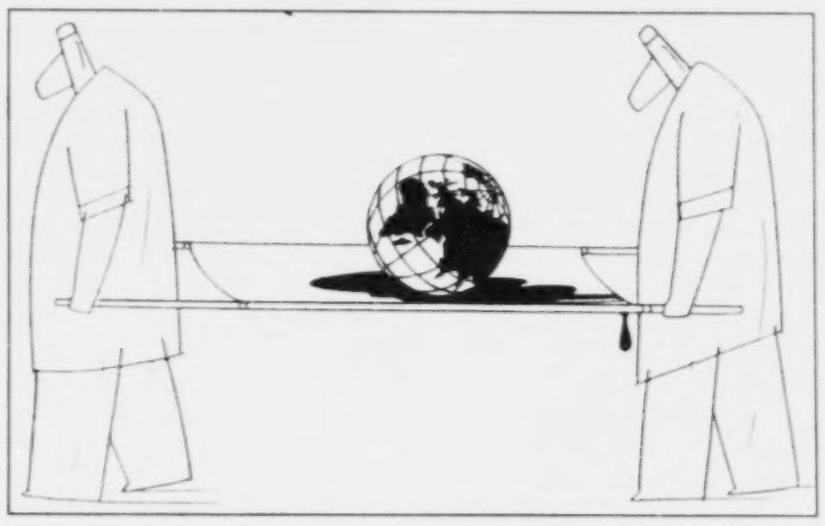
A challenge to the NGO community will be to sustain this level of participation through the next 13 months until the conference.

For many of the NGO representatives at the second UNCED PrepCom this was their first experience working in a United Nations deliberation process, a baptism of fire to many in the often Byzantine process of multilateral negotiation. A key question for the next PrepCom is whether enough NGOs will be able to adopt the slow and painstaking process of making incremental language changes into long debated resolutions.

One benefit the NGOs have for their activities is that there will be more conscious strategizing between NGOs before 12 August so that they can begin PrepCom Session III without losing so many days spent in a process of acclimation.

What governments, the UNCED secretariat and other United Nations system staff look for from the NGOs is vision, audacity of action, creativity and imagination that governments and multinational agencies are often incapable of because of their bureaucratic nature. The next several months will tell if the NGOs can fulfil these expectations.

**M.M.**



# Paris hosts conference in December

What promises to be the largest international conference of NGOs of the year related to Earth Summit will bring together in Paris participants from all regions of the world under the aegis of the Environmental Liaison Centre International (ELCI), headquartered in Nairobi, from 17-20 December.

President François Mitterand, whose government is providing financial and logistical support for the meeting, is expected to address the December conference which will be attended by 850 NGO delegates from areas outside France — 30 per cent from developed countries and 70 per cent from developing countries — and 150 from France, including government officials and media representatives.

Proposals for the agenda and structure of the conference have been submitted by the 19 members of the Steering Committee. Roberto Smeraldi of Friends of the Earth International is a co-chair of the conference.

The main result of the Paris conference will be a tentative "Brazil Document" giving an NGO perspective on environment and development. A first draft is to be ready by May and a second in September. A video tape based on the document will be produced in order to reach the widest possible audience.

A management group has been established to deal with certain organizational matters until the next meeting of the Steering Committee in May.

For more information contact the Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI), P.O. Box 72461, Nairobi, Kenya. Telephone: 562015, 562022, 562172; Telex: 23240 ENVICENTRE; Fax: 562175; E-mail: gn:elcidwr.

# Brazilians create earth forum

Brazilian NGOs, informed of their government's decision to welcome and facilitate parallel NGO events for the Earth Summit, continue the process of establishing the Forum of Brazilian NGOs for UNCED. The Forum currently includes over 200 environment and development organizations, and has a 15-member national coordinating committee.

The Forum is encouraging the participation in its work of other sectors concerned with environment and development issues, including trade unions, churches and the scientific community.

The purpose of the Forum is to organize the Brazilian NGO community around UNCED issues, including defining and putting into operation an agenda for NGO discussion and action for the conference. It is currently discussing how to treat the question of national reports, what the nature of parallel events might be, how to maximize media impact and how to plan jointly with outside organizations and networks that plan to come to Rio de Janeiro.

The Forum does not yet have a position on the planning and logistics of parallel events. Among other questions, it is seeking to identify other networks' expectations and plans. The Brazilian Forum is particularly interested in establishing working relations at the earliest possible stage with other national and international NGO networks preparing for UNCED, especially in the developing world.

For more information contact: Executive Secretariat, c/o Tony Gross, CEDI, Avenida Higienopolis 983, 01238 Sao Paulo SP, Brazil. Tel: 55 11 825 5544; Fax 55 11 825 7861; Telex 11 26561 ECUM BR; E-Mail (APC) "ac.cedi" (Poptel) "geo2.ced1"

# DevEd Annual

The National Clearinghouse on Development Education (NCoDE) of the American Forum for Global Education has published the *Development Education Annual 1990/1991* with the theme of "Perspectives from the South in Development Education", an important theme intended to address the emerging need for new partnerships between North and South for just and ecologically sustainable world development. This issue aims to share information and ideas on the latest innovative practices among all educators engaged in teaching about international interdependence and critical development issues.

For more information contact The American Forum for Global Education, 45 John Street, Suite 1200, New York, NY 10038. Telephone 212-732-8606.

# EC funds available for NGO projects

The European Community (EC) is accepting applications for funds available to NGOs in developing countries and has set aside new monies for projects in Viet Nam and to support democratization in Latin America. Other categories of assistance include:

- Development projects
- Food aid
- Storage and early warning programmes
- Purchase of food products
- Emergency aid
- AIDS in developing countries
- Science and technology for development
- Training for scientific and technical students from developing countries
- Aid to refugees
- Defense of human rights
- Aid to migrants
- Support for international youth organizations

For further information, contact the Liaison Committee Secretariat, 62, Ave. de Cortenbergh, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium. Telephone 32/2/736 40 87; Fax 32/2/732 19 34.

# Grameen Bank plans dialogue programmes

As part of its attempts to establish a dialogue among persons and organizations involved in providing credit to the poor, the Grameen Bank plans to organize two "Exposure and Dialogue Programmes" in May and November in Dhaka. These programmes are designed for people who are planning or have initiated credit programmes like Grameen. The programmes will permit participants to share their experiences, inspire each other,

review their progress, get reactions from colleagues about future plans and discuss other issues of common interest.

The programmes will provide the participants an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the philosophy, methods and procedures of Grameen Bank. Participants will also meet people who have already initiated action research projects based on Grameen in other countries. During the dialogue programme, the participants will design appropriate projects for themselves.

Grameen Trust can provide seed money for a limited number of well-designed action research projects, particularly to those without any funds at present.

For more information about the Dialogue Programmes, contact Maheen Sultan, Grameen Trust, Mirpur Two, Dhaka 1216, Bangladesh. Telephone/Fax 880-2-803-559. To subscribe to *Grameen Dialogue*, write: Grameen Dialogue, c/o Results, 236 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20002. Telephone 202-543-9340.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We are now offering space—at reasonable rates—to advertisers interested in getting their message out to the nearly 125,000 people who read *Development Forum*. Space will be available, on a limited basis, to organizations and companies involved in the fields of social and economic development. The deadline for the next issue is 15 April.

*Development Forum's* readership covers the spectrum of key United Nations, government and NGO officials, development workers, journalists, students and academics. Some 40 per cent of our readers live in the developing countries, where *Development Forum* has been a primary source of information and education for nearly 20 years.

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## Guidebooks

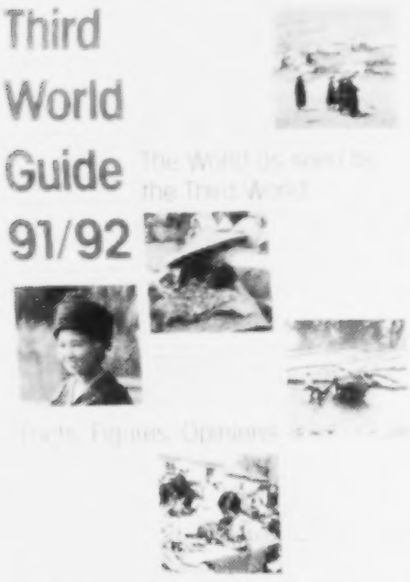
**World Resources 1990-91; Teacher's Guide to World Resources 1990-91.**
*WRI Publications, P.O. Box 4852, Hampden Station, Baltimore, MD 21211, United States.* World Resources *$17.95;* Teacher's Guide *$4.95.*

This new teaching guide offers high school students and teachers easy access to the most up-to-date information available on global environmental trends and conditions. Created to accompany *World Resources 1990-91*—the environmental reference book with the latest economic, population and natural resource data and analysis for 147 countries—the guide enables teachers to integrate the wealth of information contained in the reference book into a wide range of curricula.

Six pressing environmental issues are dealt with: global warming; deforestation and biodiversity; oceans and coasts; air and water pollution; population, poverty and land degradation; and the economics of natural resources.

The guide includes tips for integrating information contained in *World Resources* into geography, biology, history, civics, current events and other courses. It also features skill-building activities in the areas of science, social studies and environmental education.

*World Resources 1990-91* is the fourth in a series of *World Resources* volumes on the global environment.




**Third World Guide 91/92: The World as Seen by the Third World—Facts, Figures, Opinions.**
Roberto Remo Bissio, Ed.
*Third World Guide, Don Quijote 2523, Ap. 1002, Montevideo, Uruguay.*

Begun 15 years ago in Lima, Peru, as a series of notes on each of the non-aligned members of the Third World movement, the monographs were published in book form in Mexico in 1979 in an attempt to offer Latin American students an alternative to their usual sources of information: almanacs and yearbooks written with a European bias, which were full of factual errors and misconceptions about the Third World. In 1980 a Portuguese version was published, aimed at African and Brazilian readers, and in 1985 the first English edition of the guide appeared.

The present edition, the eighteenth, has had to document the myriad changes since the last edition—taking into account not only the liberalization of Eastern Europe but also the "dozens of changes of government or head of state, of policy changes where changes did not take place at the top, and of changes at the grassroots level where official policies did not change." A network of collaborators on various continents documented these transformations (many of which went by unnoticed, amid all the "thunder", when the Wall came tumbling down).

As in previous editions, this guide devotes less space to the countries of the North than to those of the South. "Why include them at all, if it's supposed to be a Third World guide?" Precisely because it is a book OF and ABOUT, but also FOR, the Third World, the rich countries could not be excluded. As the guide's editor says, "Our children must study and learn about the whole world and if they are lucky enough to have access to a reference book in their school library, they are not likely to have two such books. A *Third World Guide* could not be published under the assumption that the reader will have an additional source of information to cover the countries not dealt with in the book."

## Newsletters

**World Rivers Review.**

This newsletter is dedicated to news regarding the controversial development of rivers and river basins around the world.

Among the articles in the March/April 1991 issue are "Okavango Delta Threatened by Boro River Diversion", "World Bank to Reassess Narmada", "Soviets Challenge Amur Hydro Projects", "Water: California's Liquid Gold Runs Out" and "Can Nepal's Karnali River Dolphin Survive?".

The review is published by International Rivers Network, a project of the Tides Foundation.

For more information on subscription and membership, write to International Rivers Network, 301 Broadway, Suite B, San Francisco, CA 94133, United States.

## Directories

**Directory of Non-governmental Development Organizations in OECD Countries**
*Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 94 rue Chardon Lagache, 75016 Paris, France. $90.00.*

The Directory lists descriptions of the aims, development education work and development activities of 2,542 NGOs in the 24 OECD member countries. It is intended to facilitate contacts and improve co-operation among NGOs themselves, as well as to provide a comprehensive guide for development planners and decision-makers worldwide.

## Fellowships

Four fellowships in population and development are available to students from developing countries during the 1990-1991 academic year.

The Rafael M. Salas scholarship is provided by a trust fund created after the death in 1987 of the first executive director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The fund provides fellowships of about $4,000 each at three UNFPA-sponsored international training institutes in population and development, and at the University of the Philippines, Salas' alma mater.

Students interested in the fellowships should address queries directly to the institutions involved: the Catholic University of Louvain at Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium; the Centre for Development Studies at Trivandrum, Kerala State, India; the Institute of Social Studies in the Hague, Netherlands; and the University of the Philippines in Manila. Candidates are selected by the directors of these institutions.

## Training

**World Neighbors Training Materials Catalogue.**
*World Neighbors, 5116 North Portland Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112, United States.*

World Neighbors, a people-to-people non-governmental organization working at the forefront of worldwide efforts to eliminate hunger, disease and poverty in Asia, Africa and Latin America, compiled this catalogue in response to three basic problems which inhibited communication and education in development programmes: inadequate supply of relevant materials which could be understood by local groups; insufficient training of extension workers in communication and non-formal education methods; and lack of inexpensive, reliable and readily available teaching materials.

Its staff worked directly with programme personnel in developing ideas, writing scripts and producing photographs and drawings. Each teaching material is prepared in the country and locality for which it is designed and on actual programme experience. Before being produced in final form, it was field-tested with the local people as the audience.

Catalogue materials include film-strips, videos, printed matter (booklets, flipcharts, manuals, books, pamphlets, posters and newsletters) and projectors. Subjects range from health and nutrition, family planning, community development, agriculture, trees, soil conservation and small animal raising.

The materials are available in English, French, Spanish, Hindi and Portuguese.

**Skills for Life: Experiences of Training in Three Developing Countries.**
Dennis Frost, Ed.
*Intermediate Technology Publications Ltd., 103-105 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HH, United Kingdom. £9.95.*

A comparison of three training institutions in Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago, and Malawi examines the appropriateness of institution-based vocational training schemes as a means of equipping young people with the skills they need to become productively employed, either as paid workers or by running their own small businesses.

## Film/video

**It's Not Easy.**
*DRS, Inc., 9650 Santiago Road, Suite 10, Columbia, MD 21045, United States.*

Development through Self-Reliance (DSR, Inc.), producer of social message films by and about Africans, has recently released this 45-minute dramatic film about AIDS. It is the story of a rising young Ugandan executive whose world is turned upside down when he learns his newborn son has tested positive for HIV. The movie not only promotes safe sexual behaviour, but also calls for acceptance of AIDS victims by neighbours and co-workers. The producers have created a believable, engaging story with characters that ordinary people could identify with and be sympathetic to.

## Forestry

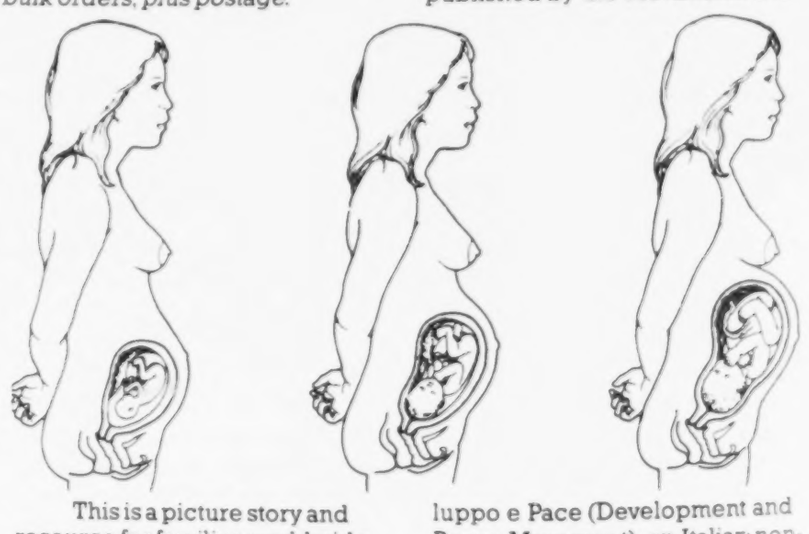
**Unasylva.**
*Food and Agriculture Organization, Distribution and Sales Section, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy. Annual subscription: $16.00. English, French and Spanish.*

After a suspension of almost two years because of economic difficulties, this important international journal of forestry and forest industries has resumed publication.

The theme of this issue (Vol.41, No.160) is "Forests and food security". Upcoming issues will feature articles on acid rain, ecological risks, the international timber trade, and wildlife.

## Health

**Universal Childbirth Picture Book.**
Fran P. Hosken.
Drawings by Marcia L. Williams
*Women's International Network News, 187 Grant Street, Lexington, MA 02173, United States. $7.00 (plus $4.00 air mail); $4.20 per copy for bulk orders, plus postage.*



This is a picture story and resource for families worldwide on healthy pregnancy and childbirth. It provides basic information on the biological processes of reproduction, nutrition and how to support a healthy childbirth experience. The pictures give the message regardless of language or literacy, accompanied by a straightforward text and discussion guide.

Available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. Free sample copies for community health workers and women's health organizations in developing countries.

## Environment

**Greenhouse Warming: Negotiating a Global Regime.**
Jessica Tuchman Mathews, Ed.
*World Resources Institute Publications, P.O. Box 4852, Hampden Station, Baltimore, MD 21211, United States. $12.50 (pbk).*

An international regime to control global warming would be the most ambitious undertaking of its kind ever attempted. With the recent advent of formal negotiations, there has been little time to reflect on prior international negotiating experiences, or to create new approaches. This collection of essays by noted experts presents some of the best thinking and writing on the subject. Contributing authors analyse different frameworks and strategies for international co-operation and offer specific suggestions for formulating, implementing and enforcing a global regime to combat greenhouse warming.

## Ecotourism

**Policies for Maximizing Nature Tourism's Ecological and Economic Benefits.**
Kreg Lindberg.
*World Resources Institute Publications, P.O. Box 4852, Hampden Station, Baltimore, MD 21211, United States. $12.50 (pbk).*

Lured by exotic natural wonders, pristine landscapes and "authentic" local cultures, more and more vacationers are joining the ranks of nature tourists. This report examines how better economic management of nature tourism can promote development and conservation without degrading the natural resources upon which development depends. The author reviews recent trends in the $30 billion-a-year nature tourism industry and analyses various approaches to issues of access, revenue, expenditures and management, based on specific examples from around the world.

## Reviews

**Terzo Mondo Informazione (Third World Information).**
*Movimento Sviluppo e Pace, Via Salluzo 58, 10125 Turin, Italy. 20,000 lire (10 numbers), 2,500 lire (1 number). Italian.*

This 20-year-old review is published by the Movimento Sviluppo e Pace (Development and Peace Movement), an Italian non-governmental organization with headquarters in Turin. It describes itself as a tool for making the reality of the Third World known in Italy.

The review has a progressive approach, expressing solidarity and setting itself the goal of "giving a voice to those who have none, making news out of what passes unnoticed, and above all, understanding diversity".

The current "Viewpoint" section includes two articles: "Latin America, your hour has

come!" and "Cambodia: a close-up of the situation". Other sections provide the reader with a complete and exhaustive panorama of Third World matters.

**Africa-América Latina Cuadernos (Africa-Latin America Notebooks).**
*Asociación de Cooperación y Estudios Internacionales (ACEI), Alenza 1, 28003 Madrid, Spain. Annual subscription: $30.00. Spanish.*

The foreword of the first issue of this four-monthly publication says that the subjects have been chosen to present basic studies on processes under way in Latin America and Africa. It continues: "Although we are aware that this kind of effort finds little echo in our society, we believe that the world we are making, the resources now being destroyed, and the population groups now being marginalized are fundamental events that should be made known."

Under the heading "Monographs" are "The Adjustment Programmes of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank", by Agit Singh; "Responses of African States to Economic Cycles and Crises: Preliminary Notes", by Thandika Mkandawire; and "For a Self-Centred Development Strategy for Africa", by Samir Amin. In another section, Luis B. Carbajal analyses the situation in Colombia.

## United Nations

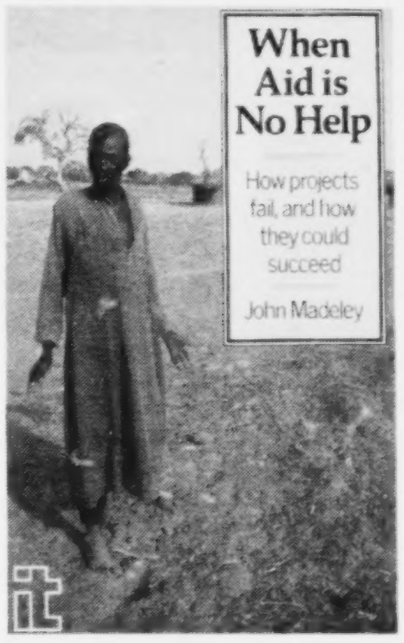
**A World in Need of Leadership: Tomorrow's United Nations.**
Brian Urquhart and Erskine Childers.
*Dag Hammarskjold Foundation, Ovre Slottsgatan 2, S752 20 Uppsala, Sweden, or Ford Foundation, 320 East 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017, United States. Free.*

With the United Nations suddenly at the centre of world diplomacy over the crisis in the Persian Gulf, even its staunchest critics are converts to international co-operation. Lest the world body become complacent with its success, two venerable United Nations insiders, Brian Urquhart and Erskine Childers, have chosen to level some constructive criticism.

They zero in on the issue of leadership, more specifically who gets into the Organization's top positions, and how. While they find little fault with the effectiveness of the United Nations in the traditionaldomains of peacekeeping and security, the authors contend that emerging global priorities, such as the environment and Third World poverty, need greater institutional emphasis.

A firm grasp of new missions like sustainable development should become mandatory for any candidate aiming for the post of secretary-general or other high positions, say the authors. Among their other recommendations: the secretary-general should be given the authority to co-ordinate the work of the specialized agencies and programmes, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund; top officials should be limited to a single seven-year term; and women must be given a chance to break into the upper echelon. Until now, no woman has ever been considered for the secretary-generalship. Of the 136 heads of specialized agencies and other programmes appointed since the Organization's inception in 1945, only one has been a woman.

In contrast to other, more ambitious proposals for reform that have emerged in recent years, Urquhart and Childers' suggestions are eminently achievable. The high visibility of the report and of its authors means that the study's call will be heard. Whether or not it is heeded will soon become clear: secretary-general Javier Pérez de Cuéllar's current term expires in December 1991.




## Aid

**When Aid Is No Help: How Projects Fail, and How They Could Succeed.**
John Madeley and others.
*Intermediate Technology Publications Ltd., 103-105 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HH, United Kingdom. £8.95.*

Development assistance from rich to poor countries has failed to reach the poorest people and those who urgently need assistance. Why is this?

The book considers official aid projects that have tried, and failed, to target the poorest. It looks closely at aid projects in Mali, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Nepal and India, probing and pinpointing the exact nature of why these projects have failed and the implications for policy-making.

The author compares successful aid projects in Sudan, Bangladesh, Gambia and Lesotho where assistance is getting through to the poorest people to see why these, and not others, are working. The book shows how aid projects should change, and ends with 12 guidelines for aid policy-makers.

## Women

**Mujeres en el Desarrollo: Balance y Propuestas (Women in Development: An Assessment and Proposals).**
*Centro de la Mujer Peruana, Flor Tristán, Parque Hernán Velarde 42, Lima 1, Peru. $8.00. Spanish.*

The book contains four essays on women. The first, "Women in development: history, limitations and alternatives", by Patricia Portocarrero, analyses the concept of development and the gradual emergence of the subject of women in the academic, political and social debate. The second, "Assessment of actions and a proposed policy", by Nora Galer, makes relevant recommendations for the design and introduction of programmes promoting women. "Projects to promote women: changes and continuing attitudes 1975-85", by Patricia Ruiz Bravo, takes a look at projects conducted by 70 NGOs in Lima. The last essay, "Productive projects, employment and cooperation", by Virginia Guzmán, evaluates a set of initiatives to create jobs for the poorest women.

The National Council for Research on Women is a coalition of 65 member centres and organizations that support and conduct feminist research policy analysis and educational programmes. Formed in 1981 as a working alliance to bridge traditional distinctions among scholarship, policy and action programmes, the Council works to strengthen ties with other national and international organizations and coalitions. Through its member centres, affiliates and projects like the National Network of Women's Caucuses, the Council links over 10,000 women and men scholars and practitioners worldwide and serves constituencies that include the academic community, public policy makers and the public.

Among its publications are the newsletter *Women's Research Network News, A Women's Mailing List Directory, Opportunities for Research and Study, 1991-92, A Women's Thesaurus: An Index of Language Used to Describe and Locate Information By and About Women*, and *International Centers for Research on Women*.

For more information, write to NCRW, Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House, 47-49 East 65th St., New York, NY 10021, United States.

## Credit

**Where Credit is Due: Income-Generating Programmes for the Poor in Developing Countries.**
Joe Remenyi.
*Intermediate Technology Publications Ltd., 103-105 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HH, United Kingdom. £8.95.*

This study of the economics of survival reveals a world of commerce in poor countries which challenges the conventional image of the "poverty trap" and those caught in it. It finds that the poor are able to save, do have investment opportunities, are trustworthy, are well motivated and do help themselves to overcome poverty—when they are given the opportunity.

The author recommends the widespread support of credit-based income-generating programmes as a cornerstone of a new poverty-oriented development strategy, devoted to development through self-directed poverty alleviation, and adoption by development programmes of the guidelines and principles that arise out of the successful experiences of pioneering programmes in their field of development.

## Awards

The Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation will be presented for the first time this October at the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in Paris.

The prize, to be given every two years, stems from a donation of $250,000 by Qaboos Bin Said, the Sultan of Oman. It will be awarded to a person, organization or institution who has engaged in environmental or natural resources research, worked for environmental education and training, or worked to establish or manage a protected area such as a biosphere reserve or a natural World Heritage site.

Nominations from governments and selected governmental or non-governmental organizations, with references from three persons familiar with the work of the candidate, should be sent before 30 June 1991 to Bernd von Droste, Director of the Division of Ecological Sciences at UNESCO.

UNESCO, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, France.

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada and the UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases are having a competition for the best paper on "Women and Tropical Diseases". The award for the winner is $5,000.

Social and biomedical scientists are invited to review the factors that are the major determinants of infection among women in the following diseases: malaria, schistosomiasis, filariasis, onchocerciasis, African trypanosomiasis, Chagas disease, leishmaniasis or leprosy. The winning paper will serve as a foundation for future research in this area by the donor organizations.

Manuscripts may be in English, French or Spanish and not longer than 30 typewritten, double-spaced pages, including tables, figures and references.

Deadline for submissions is 15 August 1991.

Papers or requests for additional information should be submitted to Carol Vlassoff, Secretary, Steering Committee on Social and Economic Research, TDR, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

## Courses

**15 September - 13 October 1991 International Training Course in Desert Farming Systems, The American University in Cairo, Desert Development Center (DDC), Egypt.**

Short training programmes have been developed by DDC since 1986 covering basic concepts of desert agriculture and technology, renewable energy and socio-economic aspects of farming systems. The present course will cover, among others: sustainable desert development, desertification control, cropping patterns and rotations, irrigation and water management, and socio-economics of desert farming systems.

Applicants should hold a B.Sc. degree in agriculture.

Deadline for applications is 31 August 1991. A limited number of full and partial scholarships are available for applicants from developing countries.

For more information and to register, write to Prof. Adli Bishay, director general, Desert Development Center, 113 Sharia Kasr El Aini, Cairo, Egypt. Fax: (202) 355-7565.

## Workshops

**22-24 July 1991**
**The Third York Workshop on Settlement Reconstruction after War, Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, University of York, United Kingdom.**

This workshop comes at a time when hopes for a brighter future in which war could be avoided as a means of solving political differences have been dashed by a new major conflict—the Persian Gulf war. It is a war in which one expects to see damage (both in Iraq and Kuwait) of a type not experienced in the past. Despite images of tanks and trenches, reminiscent of World War II, this has been a high-technology war, bringing its own kind of reconstruction problems.

Topics to be considered at the workshop are:

- Settlement reconstruction: for government glory or to meet real needs?
- Local participation: a crucial issue for reconstruction, how to achieve it?
- Foreign intervention in reconstruction: dangers and possibilities.
- The social and cultural dimension of reviving human settlements.
- What might builders of the environment contribute to inhibiting wars?

Short papers and ideas for topics are welcome and can be discussed with Charles Cockburn and Sultan Barakat, at the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, University of York, The King's Manor, York, YO1 2EP, United Kingdom. Tel: 0904 433964. Fax: 0904 433949.

## Calendar

**23-26 June 1991**
**Women's Health: The Action Agenda, Washington, DC., United States.**

Key women's health-related issues—including abortion, access to services, AIDS, childbirth, hunger, illness, socio-economic status, violence and work—will be examined at this conference. The meeting will develop an action agenda, a statement of proposed policies and initiatives to improve women's health globally.

The meeting is being organized by the National Council for International Health (NCIH), a non-profit organization seeking to improve world health through education and public policy activities.

For more information about the programme and registration materials, contact NCIH Conference Department, 1701 K St. NW, Washington, DC 20006, United States. Tel: (202) 833-5903. Fax: (202) 833-0075.

*The forces and pressures of economic life can pull nations together or they can drive them apart. One of the great challenges of the new era is to realize the possibilities of genuine cooperation to the maximum extent that the world's resources and capacities will permit. Lasting peace will necessarily require an improvement in the human condition. This, in turn, can only be achieved through productive patterns of interaction among all members of the international community. For this a renewed commitment and more focused efforts are required to stimulate and achieve economic development and social progress, particularly in the developing countries.*

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
*secretary-general*
*United Nations*

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ICJ
International Court of Justice;
INSTRAW
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ITC
International Trade Centre;
WFP
World Food Programme;
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International Telecommunication Union;
WMO
World Meteorological Organization;
IMO
International Maritime Organization;
WIPO
World Intellectual Property Organization;
IFAD
International Fund for Agricultural Development;
UNIDO
United Nations Industrial Development Organization;
IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency;
GATT
General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

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